

Family Matters

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RUTH 4

This Week's Core

Competency:

Identity In Christ - I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God..

But to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12 NIV)

Using This Study

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

③ EXPAND His Word

How does this FIT? Studying cross references can help expand your understanding of a passage and discover the unity in God's word.

④ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Introduction

February 15, 1921. New York City. The operating room of the Kane Summit Hospital. A doctor is performing an appendectomy. In many ways the events leading to the surgery are uneventful. The patient has complained of severe abdominal pain. The diagnosis is clear: an inflamed appendix. Dr. Evan O'Neill Kane is performing the surgery. In his distinguished thirty-seven-year medical career, he has performed nearly four thousand appendectomies, so this surgery will be uneventful in all ways except two.

The first novelty of this operation? The use of local anesthesia in major surgery. Dr. Kane is a crusader against the hazards of general anesthesia. He contends that a local application is far safer. Many of his colleagues agree with him in principle, but in order for them to agree in practice, they will have to see the theory applied.

Dr. Kane searches for a volunteer, a patient who is willing to undergo surgery while under local anesthesia. A volunteer is not easily found. Many are squeamish at the thought of being awake during their own surgery. Others are fearful that the anesthesia might wear off too soon. Eventually, however, Dr. Kane finds a candidate. On Tuesday morning, February 15, the historic operation occurs.

The patient is prepped and wheeled into the operating room. A local anesthetic is applied. As he has done thousands of times, Dr. Kane dissects the superficial tissues and locates the appendix. He skillfully excises it and concludes the surgery. During the procedure, the patient complains of only minor discomfort. The volunteer is taken into post-op, then placed in a hospital ward. He recovers quickly and is dismissed two days later.

Dr. Kane had proven his theory. Thanks to the willingness of a brave volunteer, Kane demonstrated that local anesthesia was a viable, and even preferable, alternative.

But I said there were two facts that made the surgery unique. I've told you the first: the use of local anesthesia. The second is the patient. The courageous candidate for surgery by Dr. Kane was Dr. Kane.

To prove his point, Dr. Kane operated on himself! A wise move. The doctor became a patient in order to convince the patients to trust the doctor.

In the Eye of the Storm by Max Lucado

This Week

It has been suggested that Boaz is a "type of Christ" in that he redeemed the name and possessions of Elimilech, just as Jesus Christ has redeemed those of us who have placed our faith in Him. Boaz was, at the least, *identified* with Christ as we will see in our study today.

Likewise, the Bible goes on to say that all believers in Christ are *identified* together, with Him.
We are:

1. Crucified together (Gal. 2:20)
2. Dead together (Col 2:20)
3. Buried together (Rom 6:4)
4. Made alive together (Eph 2:5)
5. Raised together (Col 3:1)
6. Sufferers together (Rom 8:17)
7. Glorified together (Rom 8:17)

We conclude our study in the fascinating Book of Ruth with Chapter 4 which describes the roots, in the flesh, of our blessed Savior.

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage

Ruth 4

1 Boaz went to the **gate of the town** and sat down there. Soon the family redeemer Boaz had spoken about came by. Boaz called him by name and said, "Come over here and sit down." So he went over and sat down.

2 Then Boaz took 10 men of the town's elders and said, "Sit here." And they sat down.

3 He said to the redeemer, "Naomi, who has returned from the land of Moab, is selling a piece of land that belonged to our brother Elimelech.

4 I thought I should inform you: Buy it back in the presence of those seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you want to redeem it, do so. But if you do not want to redeem it, tell me so that I will know, because there isn't anyone other than you to redeem it, and I am next after you." "I want to redeem it," he answered.

5 Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you will also acquire Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the deceased man, to perpetuate the man's name on his property."

6 The redeemer replied, "I can't redeem it myself, or I will ruin my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption, because I can't redeem it."

7 At an earlier period in Israel, a man removed his sandal and gave it to the other party in order to make any matter legally binding concerning the right of redemption or the exchange of property. This was the method of legally binding a transaction in Israel.

8 So the redeemer removed his sandal and said to Boaz, "Buy back the property yourself."

9 Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses today that I am buying from Naomi everything that belonged to Elimelech, Chilion, and Mahlon.

10 I will also acquire Ruth the Moabitess, Mahlon's

widow, as my wife, to perpetuate the deceased man's name on his property, so that his name will not disappear among his relatives or from the gate of his home. You are witnesses today."

11 The elders and all the people who were at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is entering your house like Rachel and Leah, who together built the house of Israel. May you be powerful in Ephrathah and famous in Bethlehem.

12 May your house become like the house of Perez, the son Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring the Lord will give you by this young woman."

13 Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he was intimate with her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.

14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Praise the Lord, who has not left you without a family redeemer today. May his name become well known in Israel.

15 He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. Indeed, your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him."

16 Naomi took the child, placed him on her lap, and took care of him.

17 The neighbor women said, "A son has been born to Naomi," and they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

David's Genealogy from Judah's Son

18 Now this is the genealogy of Perez:

Perez fathered Hezron.

19 Hezron fathered Ram, who fathered Amminadab.

20 Amminadab fathered Nahshon, who fathered Salmon.

21 Salmon fathered Boaz, who fathered Obed.

22 And Obed fathered Jesse, who fathered David.

Notes:

(v. 1) **gate of the town**- The town gate was where personal business and civic affairs of the people were transacted. The threshing floor was below the level of the city itself, and for that reason Boaz went “up” to the gate. The area was quite hilly.

(v. 6)- Why did he change his mind? (Cf. “I will redeem it,” v. 4b, with “I cannot redeem it,” v. 6.) Perhaps he was too poor to sustain the land and a wife. Or, as some have

suggested, perhaps he feared to marry a Moabitess lest the fate of Mahlon, Ruth’s first husband (v. 10), befall him.

Perhaps the best view is that when he learned from Boaz that Ruth owned the property along with Naomi (v. 5), he knew that if Ruth bore him a son, that son would eventually inherit not only the redeemed property but probably part of his own estate too. In that sense the nearer redeemer would “endanger” his estate.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. Have you ever gone to the airport and waited for someone at the “gate?” If so, compare your level of anticipation with that of Boaz (verse 1). Why did Boaz go to the city gate to meet this other kinsman?
2. Verse 6 - do you have any idea how, by marrying Ruth, the other kinsman’s estate might have been jeopardized?
3. In vs. 18-22, why do you think this genealogy begins and ends with Perez/David, instead of Boaz/David?
4. The last word in the Book of Ruth is “David.” What does this tell us about when the book was written, and why it was written?
5. Does the title of our book, “Ruth” give us a hint as to any another reason the book was given to us by God?

③ EXPAND His Word

How does this FIT?

6. In verse 12, why in this blessing is Ruth, in effect, compared to Tamar (Gen. 38)?
7. A lot of planning went into this marriage from both sides? Romance was certainly a factor, but read and compare verse 13 with Proverbs 16:9 and discuss.
8. Read Matthew 1:3-6 and comment on how God placed these 4 women in the genealogical line of the Man, Christ Jesus, in spite of their backgrounds.?
9. The Book of Ruth demonstrates that God has a purpose for marriage. What do the following men have in common and what does it mean: Jesus; John the Baptist; the apostle Paul (see 1 Cor. 7:7-9)?

④ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

10. Read Ruth 4:14-17 and compare it with Ruth 1:20-21. What should that tell us about the circumstances of our own lives?
11. Some of the other stand-out people in this account are the townsfolk and their encouraging words – for example, read vs.11-15. Compare this with Ephesians 4:29. Do you conscientiously work at building others up?
12. In the 1st chapter of the book, Naomi seemingly overlooked the possible impact of Ruth's loyalty and love. Read Ruth 4:15. Do you appreciate the ones that God has placed in your very own midst?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW...

Write about how God wants you to FEEL...

Write about what God wants you to DO...

Sermon Notes:

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, others' lives, and in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ.