



Go Deeper, 5th Feb 2023 Ruth 4

Dear Miners,

I hope you have enjoyed our journey through Ruth. I have too many questions and areas to reflect on this week – so take your pick!

The women of Bethlehem bless Boaz, Ruth and Naomi asking that Ruth, the Moabitess, be like Rachel and Leah, and also Tamar. The stories of Lot's daughters and Moab are in Genesis 19, Rachel, Leah, Bilhah, and Zilpah are in Genesis 29 and 30, and Tamar's story is in Genesis 38. The stories of Moab and Tamar are much less familiar to many of us as they are rarely read in church.

Read Genesis 38, and perhaps some of the other passages. Does it surprise you to find stories like this in the Bible? What picture do they paint of men, nominally the powerful people?

What is a Biblical model of marriage? How many marriages in the Bible can you think of? Which would be good example for us, and which are more of a warning?

We have explored how this small book resonates with the rest of scripture in terms of Ruth's ancestors and descendants, rules for marriage and redemption, and rules to look after the poor and the widow. What other themes from the rest of scripture do you see in Ruth? Does it inspire you read the Bible differently?

Naomi returned to Bethlehem bitter and empty, and at the end of the book her arms have been filled with a grandson and heir. How do you imagine she feels?

Ruth's loving actions bless many people beyond her, even beyond her family. Which people have been a blessing in your life? Do they know? Could you tell them?

As ever, I know I have been left with as many questions as answers. If you still if questions, do let me know and we can wrestle together in our next AMA.

Every Blessing

Rob

Deeper Stuff

Much of Ruth points back to Genesis – The Bible for Normal People unpack some of it here, touching on Moab and Tamar.

<https://thebiblefornormalpeople.com/episode-172-pete-enns-a-whole-different-way-of-reading-genesis/>