

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 03-Jun.....	Joshua 1:1-18
2) 10-Jun.....	Joshua 2:1 – 6:27
3) 17-Jun.....	Joshua 7:2 – 12:24
4) 24-Jun.....	Joshua 13:1 – 22:34
5) 01-Jul.....	Joshua 23:1 – 24:33
6) 08-Jul.....	Judges 1:1 – 3:6
7) 15-Jul.....	Judges 3:7 – 5:31
8) 22-Jul.....	Judges 6:1 – 8:21
9) 29-Jul.....	Judges 8:22 – 12:15
10) 05-Aug.....	Judges 13:1 – 16:31
11) 12-Aug.....	Judges 17:1 – 21:25
12) 19-Aug.....	Ruth 1:1 – 2:23
13) 26-Aug.....	Ruth 3:1 – 4:22

INTRODUCTION

- Ruth proposes marriage to Boaz, and Boaz responds positively. Ruth's noble character and boldness become positive traits in many of her progeny – and many became kings over Israel.
- What will our legacy be to our kids and grandkids?

Passage	Comments
Ruth 3:1-4	<p><b>Naomi – Unselfish Counselor and Matchmaker</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Naomi knew what her daughter-in-law's Biblical rights were within the Jewish society – Being a Jewish widow, she could expect a relative to assume caring for her (Leviticus 25:35; Deut 15:4-11; Psalm 82:3-4)</li> <li>Naomi opted to take matters into her own hands and devised a plan to provoke action from Boaz</li> <li>Naomi told Ruth to “uncover him and lie down” – an action that was only appropriate for a married woman</li> <li>In essence, Ruth would be putting Boaz on the spot by asking him to marry her</li> <li>Since this would be happening at night, in secret, and between 2 noble individuals, the response by Boaz would, hopefully, be noble – and it was</li> </ul>
Principle to Live By: Taking Matters Into Our Own Hands Biblically	<p><b>When is it appropriate to take matters into our own hands without running ahead of God?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sarah took matters into her own hands and gave her handmaid, Hagar, to her husband, Abraham, to father a child – and that didn't turn out too well</li> <li>Rebecca took matters into her own hands and deceived her husband, Isaac, to abscond with a blessing for Jacob, and that didn't turn out well either</li> <li>Tamar (Gen 38:13-30) dressed up like a prostitute and got pregnant by her father-in-law, Judah, to claim her Biblical rights, and that barely turned out well</li> <li>In this incident, Naomi and Ruth stayed within Biblical parameters – and God was able to bless such efforts</li> </ul>
3:5-9	<p><b>Ruth – Obedient Risk Taker</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ruth heeded Naomi's advice diligently</li> <li>Ruth may not have known the scriptures as well as Naomi, but apparently knew enough to trust Naomi</li> <li>v9. “I am your maid, so spread your covering over me” - in other words, Ruth was asking, “will you marry me?”</li> </ul>
3:10-18	<p><b>Boaz – Compassionate Protector</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v10. Boaz recognized Ruth's noble intent, and praised her for not chasing after just any guy – but was intent on seeking God's solution through the established Levirate Law ..... Deut 25:5-10</li> <li>v11. Ruth's good reputation was widely known throughout town – Good reason to keep a clean testimony</li> <li>vv12-13. Boaz acknowledged his responsibility to Ruth, and sought to fulfill it legally and ethically</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vv13-14. Boaz was also interested in Ruth's honor – <b>WHAT A MAN</b>. It was safer for Ruth to stay with Boaz throughout the night instead of trying to head back home in the dark and possibly be ravished by drunken men who would be around &amp; about at this festive time                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How many gents could innocently sleep next to a desirable lady – who also smelled good, was “dressed to kill” and who wanted to get married? – <b>BOAZ was quite the MAN</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>v18 (and v3). Naomi knew that Ruth's good looks, good smell, good dress, good reputation, charming actions, &amp; close proximity throughout the evening would cause Boaz “not to rest until the matter was taken care of” – <b>NAOMI was quite the matchmaker</b></li> </ul>
4:1-12	<p><b>Boaz – Family Redeemer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v1. Sure enough, Boaz sat at the gate and waited for the “close relative” to come by to settle up</li> <li>v6. “...I mar mine own inheritance” The exact meaning of these words is doubtful (Barnes Commentary). <b>The Jewish Targum</b> has this rendering: “I cannot redeem it, because I have a wife already; and it is not fit for me to bring another into my house, lest brawling and contention arise in it; and lest I hurt my own inheritance. Do thou redeem it, for thou (Boaz) has no wife; which hinders me from redeeming it”</li> <li>vv2,9-10. With more than enough witnesses (10), Boaz bought Naomi's property, which gave her plenty to live on the rest of her life, and Boaz got to marry Ruth</li> </ul>
Note on the Jewish Targum	The <b>Targum</b> was a paraphrased version of the Hebrew text which gave explanations and expansions of the Jewish scriptures that a Rabbi would give in the common language of the listeners. It would be equivalent to the Amplified version of our English Bible
Note on the Jewish Talmud	The <b>Jerusalem Talmud</b> , is a collection of Rabbinic notes on the 2nd-century Mishnah (Jewish oral tradition) which was compiled in the Land of Israel during the 4th-5th century A.D. Many Jewish scholars hold the Talmud on par with the Hebrew Old Testament, however the Talmud tends to be convoluted and contradictory at times (per Dr. Todd D. Baker, ZLM Staff Theologian)
4:13-22	<p><b>Obed – Davidic Ancestor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v12. Remember Tamar who dressed up like a prostitute &amp; got pregnant by Judah, her father-in-law? Well, Tamar was Boaz's great-g-g-g-grandmother</li> <li>According to Matthew 1:5, Boaz's mother was Rahab the harlot who was rescued from Jericho</li> <li>v22. And we find out the reason this book was written was to show the colorful lineage of King David</li> </ul>

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Maintain family relationships and mend any broken fences
- We need more honorable and noble people like Boaz and Ruth, and we need to train up our children to be such noble characters

NEXT WEEK: **1Peter 1:1-12**. Peter, who once acted like a blind bull in a china shop, now portrays patience, love for others, and deep insight into God's mission on earth through Jesus Christ

