

A Sermon preached by Martin Tanner in St Mary's, Market Drayton on Thursday 1st December 2016 at 10.00am

SS9 RUTH:

We end the Sermon-series on Ruth today!

I hope you have enjoyed it and learnt some deep truths.

One final deep truth is that the Book of Ruth tells her story **AS WELL AS OURS!**

How? Well, Max Lucado has written this:

Like Ruth, we are poor

–spiritually for sure, monetarily, perhaps;

Like Ruth, we wear robes of death

–Ruth buried her husband, we've buried our dreams, desires our hopes and ambitions;

Like a young mother with leukaemia or an old businessman on the dole we are out of options **BUT 'our Boaz' has taken note of us.**

Just as the landowner Boaz approached Ruth, **so the Lord Jesus Christ comes to us:**

"While we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5v8).

We, like Ruth, have a kinsman-Redeemer.

HE has made the first move.

HE has acted to end our spiritual poverty.

HE gives us life. And hope. And a future.

And so we are NOT nothing, we are NOT insignificant.

We are people LOVED and ACCEPTED by God.

(2)

We have dignity because GOD gives us dignity

by redeeming us and adopting us into his family through his Son.

WE can call God what JESUS called God: "Father".

And there is something else about the Book of Ruth which we see elsewhere in Scripture.

We tend to read the Bible with solemn faces.

But perhaps we ought to be smiling and rejoicing more.

Why? Because the story is often RIDICULOUS and INCREDIBLE.

Would a local girl from Moab EVER leave home and her family and her girl-friends and all she knew?

Surely, a young widow would be better off among those she has grown up with and alongside. Surely, they are more likely to support her than to go off to a land never seen with one's widowed Mother-in-Law?

And what is the likelihood of a widow becoming part of a royal lineage?

It's all RIDICULOUS and INCREDIBLE!

But THIS is the way God seems to work.

He DOESN'T work according to human norms of common sense, he breaks in and does the most surprising things. Like he did with Ruth.

Surely, this should stop us being overly serious.

Rather, read your Bibles, smile and REJOICE at what an amazing God we have.

He did something incredible for Ruth and he can do the same for us.

Her story is, also, our story!