

Rejoicing

Ruth 4:13-22

Introduction:

1. We see a delightful ending to the book of Ruth which is in great contrast to the beginning.
 - a. It began with remorse, but it ends with rejoicing
 - b. It began with dishonor for God but ends in honor for God
 - c. It began as a cloudy, stormy day but ends with the sun shining brightly
2. The good ending has to do with the good performance of Ruth / Boaz
3. The good ending to this book pictures the gospel which brings a good ending to our lives
 - a. It was the work of redemption that brought a wonderful ending to this book
 - b. Redemption can make a poor beginning have a good ending.
4. The good ending of the book of Ruth shows us the blessing of a godly marriage
 - a. Too many marriages bring a burden to society instead of a blessing
 - b. Good marriages are a blessing to all and bad marriages are a burden to all

I. Cause of the Rejoicing – vs 13

- The great rejoicing that concludes the book of Ruth was caused by the birth of a baby boy as we have already noted
- Much joy is often present at the birth of a baby

A. The Commitment for the Birth – vs 13a

13a So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her...

1. Boaz had made a promise before the 10 elders and the others who were gathered at the gate of the city
2. He would marry Ruth and raise up the name of the dead
3. Boaz kept his promise and married Ruth and she bore a son
4. It is nice to see faithfulness in connection with marriage here
5. Faithfulness in marriage is not too common today
6. There was morality in this marriage
 - a) *He married Ruth, then he went in unto her*
 - b) *This needs to be emphasized more today*
7. This is not surprising since we have only seen character exhibited by Ruth and Boaz

B. The Conception in the Birth – vs 13b

13b ...the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son.

1. The emphasis here is that it was the “LORD” who gave her conception
2. **Ps 127:3** *Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.*
3. The world often sees children as a curse, not as a reward
4. Hitler killed 6 million Jews and that was terrible, but we have killed 45 million babies and that is ok.

5. The hypocrisy here is terrible
 - a) *The govt makes laws for child safety seats and children have to buckled in seat belts etc*
 - b) *But at the same time abortion is protected*
 - c) *Pro-choice is no choice to the baby*

c. The Community in the Birth

1. This birth was one of the most famous births in Bethlehem
2. The first famous birth of Bethlehem was the birth of Benjamin, whose mother, Rachel died in child birth – Gen 35:16-18
3. Another famous birth here was that of David – 1Sam 16:1
4. The most significant birth was of Jesus

II. Congratulations in the Rejoicing – vs 14, 15, 17

- When a baby is born many show up to congratulate the mother and see the baby
- Here they also congratulated Naomi

A. Praise for the Lord

1. “Blessed be the Lord” is the first thing recorded in this congratulatory message

14a And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the LORD...

 - a) *Praise for God ought to be first when blessings come*
 - b) *Praise indicates gratefulness and great blessings should lead to great praise*
2. Redemption in the Praise

14b ...which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman...

 - a) *God is praised for providing a redeemer*
 - b) *We who are saved should praise God for a Redeemer*
3. Recognition of the Praise – vs 14c

14c ...that his name may be famous in Israel.

 - a) *Boaz, the redeemer, had been given much praise because of his redeeming work*
 - b) *He became famous for being willing to redeem Elimelech’s property and marry Ruth*
 - c) *We don’t even know the name of the nearer kinsman who refused to redeem Ruth, but we know the name of Boaz*

B. Prediction of the Future – vs 15a

15a And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age...

1. The Son of Ruth
 - a) *The women predicted that Ruth’s son would be a restorer of life and a nourisher of her old age*
 - b) *This says that grandchildren rejuvenate grandparents*
 - c) *Grandchildren do wonderful things for their grandparents*
 - d) *They add much blessing to the grandparents*
2. The Son of God
 - a) *Our Savior certainly is a “restorer of life” and a “nourisher of thine old age”*
 - b) *As sinners we were dead in sins, but we have been quickened which makes Him the great restorer of life*

C. Plaudits for Ruth – vs 15b

1. Ruth is praised for her compassion

15b ...for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee...

- a) *One of the keys to Ruth's noble life was her great love*
- b) *She loved the right people and the right God*
- c) *Ruth's love for Naomi was seen in her unselfish care for Naomi*
- d) *This was the first thing that Boaz noticed about Ruth in 2:11*

2. Ruth is praised for her comparison

15c ...which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him.

- a) *Ruth's value was so great she was said to be more valuable than 7 sons*
- b) *In those days, sons were more valuable than daughters*
- c) *For a woman to more valuable than 7 sons was a great compliment*

D. Providing of a Name – vs 17

17 And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

1. These women of the city did not name the child Obed
2. They followed along with Ruth and Boaz in calling the child Obed
3. This name means “servant”
4. This reminds us that we are saved to serve, not sit around

III. Caring in the Rejoicing – vs 16

A. Holding the Child

16a And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom...

1. It should not be difficult for any person to picture this act of Naomi
2. As honorary grandmother, Naomi reaches out and takes the baby and holds him close to her
3. This is a scene that is repeated whenever grandchildren come into contact with grandparents
4. Naomi looked like Naomi here and not like Mara

B. Helping the Child

16b ...and became nurse unto it.

1. Naomi helped care for the baby (she didn't nurse it)
2. Naomi was babysitter when needed
3. Over 20x “nurse” is translated “faithful” in the OT

IV. Chronicle in the Rejoicing – vs 18-22

18 Now these are the generations of Pharez: Pharez begat Hezron,

19 And Hezron begat Ram, and Ram begat Amminadab,

20 And Amminadab begat Nahshon, and Nahshon begat Salmon,

21 And Salmon begat Boaz, and Boaz begat Obed,

22 And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.

A. The Pedigree

1. This chronicle serves as a pedigree for Obed
2. The significant names here give Obed a great pedigree
3. Obed had a good mother and father in Ruth and Boaz
 - a) *He had a good grandmother in Naomi*
 - b) *He was also in the line of David - He was also in the line of Jesus*

B. The Prerequisite

1. This pedigree explains why the book of Ruth is in the Bible
2. Without this pedigree the book of Ruth becomes just a love story

C. The Proof

1. This list of names helps prove that Christ is who Matthew and Luke say that he is
2. Scripture carefully confirms that Jesus is heir to the throne of David