

# The Book of Ruth - Chapter 4:1-12

*The Heart Women's Ministry Ruth Series*

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## POINT ONE: "Hesed" Is a Choice

- ❖ We don't accidentally fall into "hesed" ; it is a choice that we make.
- ❖ There was another kinsman-redeemer that was closer in line to be able to redeem Elimilech's family but he chose not to.
  - At first, he said he would do it, and later chose not too.
- ❖ In our lives, "hesed" is a choice, we have to decide whether the sacrifice is worth it or turn the other way because the sacrifice is too great.
- ❖ Boaz knew the sacrifice, and decided to show hesed
  - God in the Bible showed hesed many times in making sacrifices. His greatest sacrifice is Jesus, his son.
- ❖ What kind of love am I showing to my neighbors? Am I being intentional?
- ❖ The first kinsman-redeemer was like Orpah, there is no judgement that he turned the offer down.
  - In fact, if were to take on this entire family, he would have been putting his estate at jeopardy.
  - There is grace in being able to consider and make a decision.
  - The fact that he chose not to only highlights God's plan and his will.
- ❖ We get to choose to be a part of an incredible adventure in "hesed" that will require sacrifice.
  - There are certain things in life and in God's nature that you will not experience unless you choose to live in hesed.
- ❖ God chooses to go on an adventure with us.
- ❖ This was a sacrifice for Boaz to take on a wife that was known to be barren.
- ❖ This reminds of Jesus! He is in heaven with God, yet decides to disrupt his time in eternity in order to show his loyalty and love to us.
  - We are the foreigner and God chooses us. We may be rejected in other ways, but God accepts us.

## POINT TWO: “Hesed” & A Promise

- ❖ Ruth 4:11
  - “Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, we are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.”
- ❖ When we look just at the relationship between Rachel, Leah, and Jacob on a human level we see manipulation, competition, in fighting, dysfunction of favoritism, and deceitfulness.
  - Why would the women wish Ruth to be like Rachel and Leah?
    - The book of Ruth is not about the individual people. God is the hero of the story! When we look at people outside of the story of God, it looks hopeless.
  - Rachel and Leah together built up the family of Israel and this takes us back to God’s promise to Abraham. God promised that Abraham would be a great nation with numerous descendants.
  - Rachel and Leah gave Jacob twelve sons that went on to establish the twelve tribes (the nations) of Israel.
  - God kept his promise by choosing to work through flawed, sinful people to fulfill that promise. God has a loyal love to fulfill his promises and that is hesed.
  - God worked through Rachel and God worked through Leah and now God will work through Ruth to fulfill that promise.
    - “The one who shows the most enduring hesed in the Bible is God.” Bible Project YouTube quote.
    - There is no hesed without God.
    - John 13:35 - Us with God’s hesed is what demonstrates God’s loyal love and changes the world.
- ❖ Hesed is counter cultural.
  - There are elements of hesed that we find in society that are very heart warming.
  - But hesed in its true Biblical form calls us higher because it is about more than a momentary kindness, or a small showing of love. Hesed is about enduring love. What makes it harder is that no one would fault you for walking away.
  - Hesed says stay when society says walk away.

### POINT THREE: “Hesed”

- ❖ The elders at the gate refer to Perez who is the son of Tamar.
  - Tamar is widowed twice (her husbands are killed by God for being wicked) and childless. She takes matters into her own hands, when Judah doesn't give her his last son, and dresses as a prostitute in order to lure her father in law into having sex with her and produces an heir.
- ❖ Tamar is in a society where the men in her life do not look out for her or protect her or even uphold his law. When all the men let her down, God is there looking out for her.
  - Whenever we feel let down or forgotten by any authority in our lives, God is the ultimate authority and always there.
  - God looks out for Ruth just like he looked out for Tamar and Rahab (Boaz's mom)
  - All of these women end up being in the line of Christ and their stories told through generations. These women should have been forgotten.
  - As women, we don't have to let society define what will make us amazing, stand out, or known.
  - Even if the authorities in our life do not look out for us, that doesn't have anything to do with the plans God has for us as women.
  - God's hesed will stand with us. His loyal love won't leave us.

### IN CONCLUSION:

- ❖ Hesed is meant to be a perpetual thing that is given.
  - God continues to give despite the circumstances. People don't earn or deserve hesed, it is just God's nature.
  - This has a ripple effect:
    - The people at the gate were inspired by Boaz's act of hesed.
    - Prior to that, Boaz was inspired by Ruth's act of hesed at the threshing floor.
  - How can we choose to live in hesed?
    - It is not meant to stop with us. There is a desire in us to go above and beyond the law. We all know the bare minimum, but that is not what makes it amazing or God.
    - When we go above and beyond the minimum, then we show God's character and nature.

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- ❖ What is a promise in the Bible that you have seen God keep in your life?
- ❖ How have you seen Jesus' loyal love?
- ❖ How can you show hesed to your neighbors?