



Owasso First Assembly

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Happy Mother's Day!

May 11, 2025

RUTH—THE LOYAL HERO

Vault verse for this series: Philippians 3:17 (ESV) *Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.*

1. Ruth is a very **unlikely** hero in scripture—she was a Moabite (Deut 23:3) woman and a widow of a Jewish man.
2. She is one of two women whose name is a book of the Old Testament.
3. Her name is in the Bible **12 times**—11 times in Ruth and 1 time in Matthew.
4. In Matthew, Ruth is **one of five** women mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus. The women listed there are **Tamar** (the enticer), **Rahab** (the prostitute), **Ruth** (the Moabite), **Bathsheba** (the adulteress), and **Mary** (the mother of Jesus).
5. Ruth is an example to us because of her **lack of qualifications**. It reminds us of the **redemption** nature of God. **Redeemed is used 23 times in 85 verses in Ruth.** (It takes less than 15 minutes to listen to the book of Ruth)
6. Ruth is an unexpected hero that highlights God's **grace** in including the most unlikely.

1. Ruth's story is **extremely dramatic**

1. The story is placed in the time of the Judges, a **very dark period** for the nation of Israel.
2. There is a famine in Israel, so **Elimelech** and **Naomi** take their family to Moab.
3. Their two sons, **Mahlon** and **Chilion**, marry Moabite women, **Ruth** and **Orpah**.
4. Elimelech and his two sons die within **10** years.
5. **Naomi is in Moab** with no blood relatives.
6. **Ruth returns** with Naomi to Bethlehem.
7. **Naomi** (pleasant) changes her name to **Mara** (bitter).

2. Ruth's character was very **consistent**

1. She was **loyal**. Ruth 1:16-17
2. She was **kind**. Her care for Naomi was admirable.
3. She was **obedient** to the instruction of Naomi.
4. She was **diligent**. She worked consistently gathering up the remnants in the field.
5. She was **courageous**.
6. She was **resilient**.

3. Ruth's impact on the world is immeasurable

1. Ruth presents herself to Boaz, asking him to redeem her.
2. Boaz inquires of closer relatives to see if any will redeem the property of Mahlon.
3. When they all refuse, Boaz fulfills his commitment to Ruth to redeem her.
4. Boaz and Ruth are married, and she has a son, named Obed, who is the father of Jesse who is the father of David. She is the great-grandmother of King David!
5. This also keeps the lineage of Jesus alive.

Lessons to learn from the life of Ruth:

1. Don't be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone for the right reason

Ruth was loyal to Naomi even when it meant leaving her home.

2. God can always bring blessings out of hardship

Ruth had endured a horrific situation but that wasn't the end of her story.

3. Stay committed to those we love

Who needs your support to succeed in life?

PEOPLE NEED YOUR SUPPORT MOST WHEN THEY DESERVE IT THE LEAST

4. Always trust in God

Especially when you don't understand. Always follow the right principles.

5. Demonstrate Kindness, humility, and gratitude

These qualities provide a framework for blessing.

6. Recognize that every life has purpose

The importance of Ruth was not clearly known for centuries.

Ruth 1:16–18 (ESV) ¹⁶ *But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you."* ¹⁸ *And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.*