



THE BOOK OF

Ruth

THE VERDICT
WITH PASTOR JOHN H. MUNRO

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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

RUTH 1:16

WHEN LIFE HITS A BRICK WALL

MESSAGE 1 — RUTH 1:1-6

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where the path of your life changed suddenly and dramatically?

KEY POINTS

I. A weeping widow stands in a Moabite graveyard (vv 1–5)

Who is Naomi?

Why was it significant that Elimelech moved his family to Moab?

How does this impact Naomi?

II. Naomi hears of God's tender grace (v 6)

What news does Naomi hear?



What decision does she make?

III. Three biblical principles

Spiritual disobedience brings _____ for yourself and others.

God's sovereign purposes sometimes bring _____.

God, in His providence, is _____ for our ultimate _____ and His _____



RENDER YOUR VERDICT

Has there been a time in your life when you feel you hit a brick wall? Did you trust God?

Looking back, do you see His purposes at work?

“TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND DO NOT LEAN ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING. IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE WILL MAKE STRAIGHT YOUR PATHS.”
PROVERBS 3:5-6

THE LIFE GOD BLESSES

MESSAGE 2 — RUTH 1:6-18

INTRODUCTION

The Christian life is a life of faith. This faith is not just a belief in our heads, but a faith which impacts our hearts, our wills, our lives, and our future.

What do we mean by “radical faith”? Why does God bless the life of radical faith?

KEY POINTS

I. Follow Naomi’s example of radical faith (vv 6–14)

Why is Naomi’s decision to return to Bethlehem a demonstration of radical faith?

What choice does she present to her two daughters-in-law?

What does she want them to understand?



II. Follow Ruth's example of radical faith (vv 15–18)

How do Ruth and Orpah respond?

What are some of the larger issues behind the choice?

How are Ruth's words significant?

As she answers, what is evident — in addition to her love for her mother-in-law?



RENDER YOUR VERDICT

Do you understand why God's sovereignty is such a great comfort?

Have you trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ? Is your faith radical?

What are the opportunities in your life as you seek to live by radical faith?

“AND WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM, FOR WHOEVER WOULD DRAW NEAR TO GOD MUST BELIEVE THAT HE EXISTS AND THAT HE REWARDS THOSE WHO SEEK HIM.”
HEBREWS 11:6

WHEN GOD'S SMILE IS HIDDEN

MESSAGE 3 — RUTH 1:19-22

INTRODUCTION

Do you know what it feels like when “God’s smile is hidden”?

How have you reacted?

KEY POINT

Hidden behind the tragedies, God is smiling on Naomi and Ruth (vv 6–14)

As Naomi returns to Bethlehem with Ruth, what is their reception?

How does Naomi’s reply demonstrate her authenticity?

Is she bitter against God?



In the three parts of Naomi's reply, how does she mention the Lord in each aspect?

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3.

Why is that significant?



RENDER YOUR VERDICT

Do you believe God is active and interested in the details of your life?

How have you responded to the bitter, painful, and possibly tragic situations in your life?

Do you see how this principle — from emptiness comes fullness, from sadness comes joy, from death comes life — is exemplified in our Lord Jesus Christ?

Are you trusting God in the storm? If you are following Christ, are you living as a person of hope?

“THEN JOB ANSWERED THE LORD AND SAID: ‘I KNOW THAT YOU CAN DO ALL THINGS, AND THAT NO PURPOSE OF YOURS CAN BE THWARTED.’” JOB 42:2

IN THE SHADOW OF HIS WINGS

MESSAGE 4 — RUTH 2:1-13

INTRODUCTION

Do you ever feel alienated and alone as you encounter tough circumstances?

KEY POINTS

I. **Trust in the Lord**

Why was Ruth's situation so difficult?

How has she demonstrated her trust in the Lord?

What does it mean "to seek refuge under the wings of the Lord" (v 12)?

II. **When you trust in the Lord, He will guide, protect, and provide**

What is "gleaning" in the context of ancient Israel?



Since God is at work in our lives, does that mean we are to be passive?

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How is God's provision evident as Ruth "happens" to go to Boaz's field?

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How is Ruth a reminder of grace?

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How is Boaz's good character demonstrated? How is his faith incorporated in his daily life?

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RENDER YOUR VERDICT

In your joys and sorrows, are you seeking refuge under the wings of the Lord?

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“LET ME DWELL IN YOUR
TENT FOREVER! LET ME TAKE
REFUGE UNDER THE SHELTER
OF YOUR WINGS! FOR YOU,
O GOD, HAVE HEARD MY
VOWS; YOU HAVE GIVEN ME
THE HERITAGE OF THOSE
WHO FEAR YOUR NAME.”
PSALM 61:4-5

THE KINDNESS OF GOD

MESSAGE 5 — RUTH 2:14-23

INTRODUCTION

Some circumstances and situations in life seem impossible. Do you realize that you will never solve the problems or failures in your life by yourself? You need supernatural help.

KEY POINTS

I. God's kindness and grace to us are extraordinarily lavish

How does Boaz demonstrate kindness to Ruth? Why is it surprising?

How is Boaz's kindness to Ruth a picture of God's grace and kindness to us?

II. God's kindness and grace transcend racial barriers

How was the kindness of Boaz particularly generous given Ruth's status as a foreigner, specifically, a Moabitess?



Do you understand how the Gospel of Jesus Christ transcends all racial and social barriers? Do you believe that and act on it?

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What does it mean to be “one in Christ”?

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RENDER YOUR VERDICT

Are you trusting God and seeking His shelter and provision?

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Are you displaying His grace and kindness to others — particularly to those in need or those from different backgrounds?

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“ HE HAS TOLD YOU, O MAN,
WHAT IS GOOD; AND WHAT
DOES THE LORD REQUIRE
OF YOU BUT TO DO JUSTICE,
AND TO LOVE KINDNESS,
AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH
YOUR GOD?” MICAH 6:7-9

A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL

MESSAGE 6 — RUTH 3:1-9

INTRODUCTION

Love, romance, and significant relationships are gifts from our great God. But why is there so much failure and dysfunction in our relationships? Could it be that we are not following our Creator's design?

In preparation for the chapter:

What is the law of levirate marriage?

What is the law of the kinsman-redeemer?

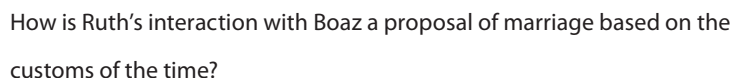
KEY POINTS

I. Ruth follows Naomi's strategy (vv 1-9)

What is Naomi's strategy for Ruth?

II. Ruth's action

As Ruth follows Naomi's instructions, what does her submissive attitude demonstrate?



Follow _____ counsel. Are you the kind of person who seeks counsel from others, or do you simply follow your own desires?

_____ God gives you. Are you trusting
God to create opportunities and guide you? Are you active in prayer?

Seek a _____ in the Lord. Do you recognize that being single and being married are gifts from God? The most important relationship in your life is your relationship with Jesus Christ. Are you living by radical faith, trusting His guidance?



Do you realize that your deepest needs of unconditional love, acceptance, forgiveness, peace, and fulfillment can only be met by Jesus Christ?

Do you trust that God is at work in your daily life? Are you trusting Him to guide you?

“AN EXCELLENT WIFE WHO CAN FIND? SHE IS FAR MORE PRECIOUS THAN JEWELS. THE HEART OF HER HUSBAND TRUSTS IN HER, AND HE WILL HAVE NO LACK OF GAIN.”
PROVERBS 31:10-11

PRINCIPLES FOR MARRIAGE

MESSAGE 7 — RUTH 3:10-18

INTRODUCTION

The story of Ruth illustrates that God usually leads, guides, and blesses us one step at a time. The life God blesses is one of trust and obedience. Are you obeying God? Are you stepping out in faith as you have opportunities?

KEY POINTS

I. Pray for God's blessing (v 10)

What was Boaz's immediate reaction to Ruth's marriage proposal?

Are you seeking God's blessing for your spouse, fiancé, or girl/boyfriend?

II. Keep your promises (v 11)

A relationship based on trust, honesty, and integrity provides great stability and security. Are you trustworthy?

III. Grow in godliness (v 11b)

Are you focused on **being** the right person instead of **finding** the right person?



IV. Wait on the Lord (vv 12–13)

How does Boaz wait on the Lord versus acting prematurely?

Are you trusting in the sovereignty and providence of God? Or are you taking matters into your own hands?

V. Exercise self-control (v 14)

Boaz and Ruth have done nothing wrong. How do they minimize the opportunity for accusations and gossip in a potentially embarrassing situation?

Do you understand that a healthy sexual relationship within marriage is dependent on self-control?

VI. Be generous and thoughtful (v 15)

If you have received God's grace as a follower of Christ, are you generous and thoughtful to those in need?



RENDER YOUR VERDICT

Are you living by radical faith? Are you experiencing the blessing of God?

Are you ready to be a channel of blessing and grace to others?

“LET EACH ONE OF YOU LOVE HIS WIFE AS HIMSELF, AND LET THE WIFE SEE THAT SHE RESPECTS HER HUSBAND.”
EPHESIANS 5:33

REDEEMED

MESSAGE 8 — RUTH 4:1-13

INTRODUCTION

In difficult times, we can **run from God**. Or like Naomi and Ruth, we can **run to God**.

Do you understand that it is **your response, not your circumstances**, which determines your outlook and destination and reveals the character of your faith?

KEY POINTS

I. The need for redemption (vv 1-3)

Why does Boaz need to speak to the closer kinsman of Naomi and Ruth?

Why is it important how Boaz chooses to proceed?

II. The act of redemption (vv 4-8)

How does Boaz present the two needs for redemption: redeeming the land and marrying and providing for Ruth?



What is the kinsman's response? How do they seal the deal?

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III. The result of redemption (vv 9–13a)

What is the three-part blessing from the Lord given to Boaz and Ruth?

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As Boaz marries Ruth, what are the three elements of their marriage?

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RENDER YOUR VERDICT

How is the role of Boaz a beautiful illustration of our Lord Jesus Christ, who redeemed us from our sins?

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Are you redeemed? Consider the great cost of this redemption — the death of Jesus Christ on the cross.

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Consider the result — as a follower of Jesus Christ, you are now part of the family of God, and you are to love Him, serve Him, and display Him to others.

“ OH GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD,
FOR HE IS GOOD, FOR HIS
STEADFAST LOVE ENDURES
FOREVER! LET THE REDEEMED
OF THE LORD SAY SO... FOR HE
SATISFIES THE LONGING SOUL,
AND THE HUNGRY SOUL HE
FILLS WITH GOOD THINGS.”
PSALM 107:1-2, 9

THE HIDDEN HAND OF GOD

MESSAGE 9 — RUTH 4:13-22

INTRODUCTION

How does the story of the boll weevil in Enterprise, Alabama remind us of the story of Ruth and Naomi?

Do you understand that the most difficult, the most painful, the most devastating, and the most bitter of circumstances in life may be the source of the greatest blessing for you and others?

KEY POINTS

I. God blesses ordinary people as they trust and obey Him (vv 13–17)

Trace how Ruth is blessed when she trusts God and obeys God: her conversion, her journey with Naomi, meeting Boaz, her marriage, her family, and her place in Scripture.

II. God is working out His purposes through the lives of ordinary people (vv 18–22)

Who is Obed?



How will he play a role in God's redemptive history?

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Considering the story of Obed's parents, how does this emphasize God's work in the lives of ordinary people?

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RENDER YOUR VERDICT

Do you believe in the goodness and power of our sovereign God?

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Have you been redeemed by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

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Do you seek shelter under His wings?

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“FOR IT IS GOD WHO WORKS IN YOU, BOTH TO WILL AND TO WORK FOR HIS GOOD PLEASURE.”
PHILIPPIANS 2:13

THE VERDICT

WITH PASTOR JOHN H. MUNRO

"Where the Gospel is preached, the lives of men and women and boys and girls are transformed. Through His death and resurrection, Christ gives us peace with God, present power for living, and future hope for eternal life." — PASTOR JOHN H. MUNRO



John H. Munro

The Verdict is a daily and weekly radio program featuring the expository Bible teaching of Pastor John H. Munro.

Born and raised in Scotland, John graduated from the University of Edinburgh and practiced law in Scotland before God called him to full-time ministry. He and his wife, Gudny, moved to Texas, where he attended Dallas Theological Seminary.

For more than 30 years, John has dedicated his life to pastoral ministry, preaching and teaching the Word of God. He has served as Senior Pastor in Kalamazoo, MI, Pittsburgh, PA, and Halifax, Nova Scotia. Since February 2006, he has served as Senior Pastor at Calvary Church in Charlotte, NC.

Each day on The Verdict, listeners are challenged to turn to the Bible and render a "verdict" as they consider their personal response to the truth of God's Word. John Munro presents a clear examination of Scripture, offering insight and application for all backgrounds, from those unfamiliar with the Gospel to mature believers following Christ.

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FOR THE WORD OF GOD AND FOR THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST
REVELATION 1:9