

Ordinary People

Today's Reading: [Ruth 4:13-22](#)

So why the book of Ruth? Why did God include these four chapters into His eternal word? What's the point? Was it just a "chick-flick" thrown into all of the Old Testament violence in order to keep women readers engaged? Is the main lesson one for single men? "Always keep your feet covered and be prepared to give away a sandal or the next thing you know you might be married!" Was it only intended to be a "they lived happily ever after" story where a grieving widow marries and has a baby and where the curtain closes with grandma holding her grandson? Why Ruth?



At least part of the answer is found in the last word of the book. This story was all about a name three generations removed from Ruth and Boaz. It was all about their great-grandson. It was all about David. It was all about the fact that God used this faithful, seemingly insignificant, female, foreign follower of Himself and her marriage to a farmer in Bethlehem to bring about the most celebrated OT king of Israel. Do you sometimes feel insignificant? You aren't! God wants to use you!

Why did God include these 4 chapters in the Bible? There is more to the answer that is found in a genealogy found in Matthew 1. In the midst of all of the "so and so was the father of such and such" statements of this chapter, we read "Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth" (Matt. 1:5). You see, both Boaz and Ruth are mentioned in this genealogy. Whose genealogy was it? It was the genealogy of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Ruth

You see, it was ultimately because of the union of Ruth and Boaz that Joseph traveled with his fiancé Mary to the village of Bethlehem. It was because of the union of Ruth and Boaz that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. When it comes to Ruth, the point is this: this ordinary love story...of boy meets girl, marries, they have a baby, and grandma is proud...this normal love story contributes to the rescue mission of God!

In what ways is your normal, ordinary, perhaps insignificant, or even scarred life contributing to the completion of His rescue mission?

Have a past? Who doesn't! Don't let that stop you! Join the rest of us! Confess it. Allow God to cleanse you and move on.

Made some bad choices along the way? You can scarcely read anywhere in the Bible without being confronted with someone, whose life is a train wreck! But you will also encounter pages dripping with words like grace and mercy and the fact that God uses people like that.

Does your life seem ordinary? No one is knocking at your door for the rights to publish your life story. Though our lives may not make it to the bookshelf of a few thousand homes, for most of us, our contribution to the rescue mission of God is being made one life, one faithful act, one conversation, one person at a time.