

# Ruth (Love Defined) - Part 7

Sunday, March 24, 2024  
10:30 AM

**Intro Video: Worship The Risen King - 2**

**Worship Song: How Great Is Your Love - 7**

In our study of the book of Ruth we have seen that LOVE IS DEFINED in the following ways...

- Love Is a Choice
- Love Means Commitment
- Love Requires Sacrifice
  
- Love means that God has a plan.
- Love begins with KINDNESS.
- Love PROVIDES
- Love is HARD WORK and WORKS HARD
- Love should be the BY-PRODUCT of a real relationship with God.
- Love always PROTECTS.
- Love treats others like FAMILY.
- Love is REWARDED by God
  
- Love provides SECURITY.
- Love shows RESPECT.
- Love walks in PURITY.
- Love is PATIENT
- Love is a PRIVILEGE
- Love comes with RESPONSIBILITIES.

Finally in Chapter 4 we said that Love is defined as a Kinsman Redeemer or One who CARRIES THE BURDEN

It is tied closely to the idea of REDEMPTION.

It means to "BUY BACK" or "REGAIN" or "RESTORE."

That's what love does... It carries the burden that cannot be carried by the one to whom it belongs. It buys back, pays the debt that is owed, it regains the freedom of the one who is enslaved, regains their name and position and ensures its continued safety.

- He had to be a close relative.
- He had to have the means to pay off the debt.
- He had to be willing.
- He had to redeem completely.

Jesus fulfilled all of those roles for us. He is our Kinsman Redeemer

On this Easter Sunday I want to bring us one more thought from the book of Ruth that defines love

## LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING

Ruth 4:13-22

13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. 14 The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! 15 He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth."

16 Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. 17 The women living there said, "Naomi has a son!" And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

18 This, then, is the family line of Perez: Perez was the father of Hezron, 19 Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, 20 Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, 21 Salmon the father of Boaz, Boaz the father of Obed, 22 Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David.

Why go back to Perez (The child born to Tamar and Judah)... It's the story of a Kinsman Redeemer gone horribly wrong (Er, Onan, Shelah)...

But Boaz is the picture of a true Kinsman Redeemer a true picture of love. And he points us to an even better picture of Love... The perfect Kinsman Redeemer... Jesus... And just as everything was changed for Ruth and Naomi, Jesus loves changes everything for us. He turns our story and our lives completely around.

He changes our story from one of loss, death, destruction, and hopelessness to one of prosperity, life and hope for the future. He changes our identity from slave of sin to child of God, our destiny from the grave and Hell to resurrection and eternal life in heaven.

He changes our attitude...

He changes our outlook...

He changes our nature...

He changes our choices...

He changes our lifestyle...

He changes our heart...

He changes our mindset...

He changes our path...

He changes our desires...

He changes our language...

He changes our purpose...

Jesus Love changes everything...

Last week we met Hannah... The "hard as sandal leather" mother of Barabbas... She's had some encounters with Jesus and even got caught up for a moment in the excitement of those who were welcoming Jesus to Jerusalem with shouts of praise and adoration. Though you won't find her story in the Bible, there have been countless stories like hers. Stories of those who have encountered Jesus... Stories of those who have been changed by His Love. - 15

*It's Passover. Not that it makes much difference to me. One day is pretty much the same as another without you, Jonas. Remember when you and I talked about Passover, and I said, "What if, Jonas, what if the blood of a lamb really could take away our sins. A fresh start! A new beginning." You laughed at me and called me a dreamer and said it would take a lot more than the blood of a lamb. You were right, I suppose it would take a perfect sacrifice...not much chance of finding that around here.*

*Well, no point in staying around....*

*What? Are you talking to me? You're inviting me to Passover. Wait a minute...I recognize you, you're Jesus' mother! You must have me mixed up with somebody else...Jesus pointed me out, and said to invite me specifically? ... He's spending the Passover with his disciples...and you're spending it with some friends....and you'd like me to be one of those friends...*

*Oh no... I'm not crying...there's something in my eye...*

*After all--like I said--Barabbas and me, we're as tough as sandal leather--NOTHING makes us cry.*

*But I suppose I have nothing better to do.*

*Talk to you later, Jonas...or maybe not...*

**(Break) - 20**

Exodus 12:1, 3, 5, 6-8, 10, 12-13

12 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt,

3 Tell the whole community..each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household.

5 The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect...

6 Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. 7 Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. 8 That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast.

10 Do not leave any of it till morning...

12 "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. 13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you...

Luke 22:14-15

14 When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. 15 And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

Matthew 26:26-28

26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Jesus is our Passover Lamb whose blood forgives us and sets us free from the slavery of sin... Just as the Israelites had to participate in their protection and deliverance from the Egyptians by placing the blood of the lamb on the tops and sides of the door frame; so, Jesus called us to participate by applying the blood of his sacrifice to our hearts by faith.

### Worship Song: Thank You for The Blood - 25

Participation in the invitation (Take and eat... Drink from it...)

Eat all of it (We cannot believe just certain parts of who Jesus is, we can't have a limited relationship with him. Do you know who He is? Have you applied the blood of His sacrifice to your life?)

Mark 14:32-50

32 They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33 He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. 34 "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

35 Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. 36 "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

37 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? 38 Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

39 Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. 40 When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

41 Returning the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. 42 Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

43 Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

44 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” 45 Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. 46 The men seized Jesus and arrested him. 47 Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

48 “Am I leading a rebellion,” said Jesus, “that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? 49 Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.” 50 Then everyone deserted him and fled.

*Oh Jonas, oh Jonas, I wish you were really here and not just in my head! They've arrested Jesus. His own disciple betrayed him! Those disciples of his are worthless. As if it wasn't bad enough to have one betray him, and the others scatter like mice when the cat comes in, that blowhard Peter denies he even knew Jesus! I was openmouthed, as I heard Peter deny he knew Jesus--not just once but three times!*

*I thought I was surely the loneliest person in the world--with you dead and Barabbas condemned.... but who could feel lonelier than Jesus right now?*

*It all happened when I went walking after sharing the Passover with my new friends. I just had to get some fresh air...my head was buzzing...and NOT with the Passover wine.... maybe I was wrong...about so many things. Mary and those other women--they didn't act like they thought they were better than me. They welcomed me. Just like I saw Jesus welcoming everybody. I was thinking that maybe I should go to Jesus next time he was preaching...there's so much to think about...that's why I had to come out to get some fresh air...I must have walked for miles! That's what I got for not watching where I was going...I wound up in some garden and saw Jesus praying. And wouldn't you know...those disciples of his, asleep while Jesus is praying...the woods are full of Jesus' enemies...and some protection those sleepy disciples were...*

*Oh Jonas, it was awful. It was like I had turned to a statue, and I could do was watch...I saw the soldiers come, and arrest Jesus. It's not like I've never seen anybody get arrested before. I was there when they came to arrest our son, Barabbas--the sergeant of the guard has my claw marks on his face to prove it! I suppose I'm lucky not to be in a cell next to Barabbas...As I watched the soldiers arrest Jesus--I couldn't help but think about my son's arrest. Barabbas fought like a caged animal, snarling his defiance, until sheer force brought him down. But with Jesus, I saw an entire regimen t fall backwards with just a word from Jesus. If anyone could have defied the Romans and won...it would have been Jesus. And he hasn't done anything! He's an innocent little lamb! No! They can't kill him. He's an innocent lamb... lamb.... Passover.... innocent... sacrifice....*

**(Break) - 35**

**Worship Song: Living Hope - 40**

Mark 15:6-15

6 Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. 7 A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. 8 The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

9 “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, 10 knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. 11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

12 “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them.

13 “Crucify him!” they shouted.

14 “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

15 Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

*Somebody told me that the Romans give up one prisoner for the Passover, surely the people will choose Jesus...I must go and join my voice with theirs. What's that I hear! The people are yelling...Barabbas??? Why are they calling my son's name? Oh my. Pilate is asking the people to choose between my son and Jesus? And they're choosing Barabbas! My love for my son floods up inside my chest, and I want to join my voice to the animal throng roaring Barabbas's name. But I can't. I want to cry Jesus's name. to beg the governor to spare him instead of my son...but I can't do that either.*

*I always thought of myself as being in control...but right now, I don't know what to say, or what to do, or what to even think.... my world has turned upside down and inside out.*

**(Break) - 45**

### **Worship Song: Just As I Am (I Come Broken) - 50**

Luke 23:32-47

32 Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. 33 When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. 34 Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

35 The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

36 The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar 37 and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

38 There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews.

39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

40 But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”



43 Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

44 It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, 45 for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46 Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

47 The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.”

*I couldn't bear to go to the crucifixion, Jonas. I couldn't go up there and see Jesus on the cross, knowing that it could have been Barabbas on there...SHOULD have been Barabbas on that cross... For that matter, it should have been ME on the cross. Goodness knows I've done a hundred things worthy of a crucifixion. But Jesus was innocent! I couldn't sleep all night...the words of John the Baptizer kept running through my head...do you know what John said about Jesus "Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." But Jonas...how can I believe in a DEAD messiah!*

*For that's what he is, Jonas. Dead. He's been in the grave almost three days ago.*

**(Break) - 55**

**Worship Song: Old Rugged Cross – 60**

Isaiah 53:4-11

4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. 9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. 11 After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.

1 John 2:2

2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

*Oh Mary, I don't know what to say....my broken heart throbs in time with yours. And while I rejoice that my son still lives, I mourn that your son gave his life so that mine could live... You talk so strangely Mary, I don't understand. You say that Jesus died, so we all could live.... he died in YOUR place/...and in mine? But I haven't been sentenced to death...oh...the eternal death caused by our sin.... yes, I did hear the rumor...you say it's true...that John the Baptizer said about Jesus, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Oh Mary, you've given me much to think about...but this is not a time to think, I've come to weep with you, for in this land full of deceit, and violence, and hatred--the only good man I've ever known is dead. and we killed him.*

**(Break) - 65**

**Worship Song: You Are Good - 70**

Matthew 28:1-7

28 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead...'

*Mary, Mary, I don't understand...how can you be smiling at a time like this... have you gone mad? Where's your grief? What? Yes, I have thought about all you said...Jesus being the perfect sacrifice...taking our place.... but why the smile? He's what? He's alive! Jesus has conquered death! Yes, I know you must go and tell others. I'll be right along.*

*Oh, where did you come from? I've seen you around before...oh yes, I suppose I did yell at you a few times for looking at me. I'm sorry.*

*...*

*Yes, I really am Hannah, and I don't have a fever... What? Am I crying.... Yes, I am. A heart hard as sandal leather has been softened. You know, I believe what Mary said ...I know that Jesus lives... and what's more important... I know that my redeemer lives! And thanks to Jesus' perfect sacrifice, I finally have that fresh start and new beginning!*

**(END) - 75**

## **Worship Song: Forever – 80**

Hannah experienced the love of Jesus that changes everything... Have you?

Remember the thief on the cross next to Jesus. Something changed his heart that day. At first, he showed his contempt and disbelief by treating Jesus with the same disdain of the others who mocked Jesus.

**Mark 15:32**

**32 Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.**

And yet even through the pain and suffering of crucifixion his attitude changed, his heart softened, and his words towards Jesus transformed from denial and disrespect to acceptance and defense.

**Luke 23:39-43**

**39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”**

**40 But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”**

42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

43 Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

What Happened? I believe that in those hours while he hung on the cross, he experienced the Love, compassion and forgiveness that Jesus came to bring to all of us. The thief encountered a **LOVE THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING!**

**Worship Song: How Great Is Your Love/Oh How He Loves You and Me - 85**

Altar Call