

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: God's Amazing Grace

SERMON REFERENCE: Ruth 2

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2087

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright ©2019 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The book of Ruth is the story of redeeming love.
 - i) It tells us about the saving grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- b) Elimelech, whose name means "My God is King," was married to Naomi, whose name means "Pleasantness."
 - i) They had two sons.
 - (1) Mahlon, which means "Song" or "Joyful Song."
 - (2) Chilean, which means "Perfection" or "Perfectness."
- c) Elimelech and his family lived in Bethlehem, but there arose a famine in the land.
 - i) Rather than having faith in "The House of Bread," Elimelech moves his family to Moab.
 - (1) The land of Moab had a curse upon it.
 - (2) The Moabites were Israel's ancient enemies.
 - (3) Moab represented the territory of the devil.
 - ii) Elimelech and his sons die in Moab.
 - iii) Naomi is left a widow, and she changes her name to Mara, which means "Bitterness."
 - iv) Naomi decides to return to Bethlehem.
 - (1) Naomi has two daughters-in-law from Moab.
 - (2) One of her daughters-in-law, Ruth, decides to go with Naomi.
 - (a) Ruth 1:16
 - (b) Ruth left her family, friends, and pagan gods and decided to serve the God of Israel and go with Naomi.
- d) In Bethlehem, Ruth meets a man named Boaz.
 - i) The name Boaz means "In Him Is Strength."
 - ii) Boaz is a mighty man, a wealthy man and a noble man.
 - iii) Ruth and Boaz marry, and Boaz buys back the lost estate of her former husband, Mahlon.
 - iv) Ruth becomes an ancestor according to the flesh of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- e) There is more to this story than meets the eye and great lessons to be learned.
 - i) Elimelech represents the nation Israel.
 - ii) Elimelech turns his back on his faith and on his Lord and goes into exile where he dies.
 - iii) Pleasantness (Naomi) is turned to Bitterness, and the Song ceases and Perfection is gone.
 - iv) Naomi now represents a remnant coming back home in bitterness.
 - v) Ruth is a Gentile bride, representing the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - vi) Boaz, whose name means, "In Him is Strength," represents Jesus Christ, our kinsman redeemer.
 - (1) There are pictures of Jesus throughout the Old Testament.
 - (a) Luke 24:27
- f) The theme in Ruth 2 is grace.
 - i) Ruth 2:2
 - ii) Ruth 2:10
 - (1) Ruth became the bride of Boaz by grace.
 - (2) We become the bride of Christ by grace.

(a) Ephesians 2:8

g) There are wonderful truths about grace that we find in the book of Ruth.

2) IT IS SAVING GRACE (Ruth 2:1)

a) Ruth is about to meet Boaz, who would become her redeemer and savior (in the physical realm).

i) Ruth is a pagan.

ii) She is also in a weakened condition due to the famine.

iii) As a Moabite, she is under a curse.

iv) She is a widow with nothing to commend her.

(1) Ruth is crushed because her husband has died.

(2) She is condemned because the law says there is a curse upon her; the law excluded her.

(3) But grace is going to include her.

b) There was a law in Israel known as the law of the kinsman redeemer.

i) If a man were to die without having children and perhaps lost his estate, a near relative could redeem that estate, buying back the land that was lost.

ii) When the kinsman redeemer bought back the property, he also had to marry the widow of the deceased man and raise up children for him.

(1) Leviticus 25

c) Boaz is a picture of Christ.

i) He was from Bethlehem, as was the Lord Jesus.

ii) He was a near kinsman to Ruth, as Jesus is a near kinsman to us.

(1) Hebrews 2:14

(2) Hebrews 2:16-17

iii) Boaz was a wealthy man, and Jesus was a man of Heavenly riches.

(1) The redeemer had to be wealthy enough and able to redeem with no obligations against him.

iv) Boaz was willing to redeem, just as the Lord Jesus was willing to redeem.

(1) Boaz went to the fields where Ruth was, just as Jesus comes to where we are.

3) IT IS SOVEREIGN GRACE (Ruth 2:2-3)

a) There was a welfare law in Ruth's day that God had put in place concerning the harvesting of the fields.

i) When the reapers would come into the fields, they were to leave some of the grain that fell to the ground, and they left the corners of the field alone.

ii) The poor would then come and glean the field.

(1) They would pick up the grain that had fallen to the ground, and they would go into the corners to get the wheat and barley.

b) Ruth went into the fields to glean what she could.

i) We can see God's hand in this:

(1) Ruth and Naomi went back to Bethlehem just in time for the barley harvest.

(2) Ruth unknowingly goes into the field of Boaz to glean.

- (3) While Ruth is in the field, Boaz happens to visit his fields at just that moment.
 - c) God has a plan, and He is moving everything so that Ruth shows up at just the right time when Boaz is there.
 - i) In a similar way, God rules over our circumstances to put us in a situation where we can hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- 4) IT IS SEEKING GRACE (Ruth 2:4-8)
 - a) Boaz comes to the field where the servants are, and he takes upon himself the form of a servant.
 - i) He's a mighty man and a wealthy man, but he is there among the reapers.
 - ii) Boaz notices Ruth and asks about her.
 - (1) Jesus loved us before we ever loved Him.
 - b) Boaz takes the initiative; Ruth could not.
 - i) Ruth is a woman, and a woman could not approach a man in those days.
 - ii) Ruth was bankrupt, but Boaz was wealthy.
 - iii) Ruth was a pagan, and Boaz was an Israelite.
 - iv) Ruth was of low caste, and Boaz was a mighty man.
 - v) Ruth was gleaning the fields, and Boaz owned the fields.
 - (1) Ruth is a picture of us.
 - (a) 1 John 4:19
 - (b) Romans 5:8
 - (c) Hebrews 1:2
 - (i) God speaks to us through Scripture.
 - (ii) God speaks to us through song.
 - (iii) God speaks to us through suffering.
 - (iv) God speaks to us through His servants.
 - (2) God takes the initiative, and He speaks to us.

- 5) IT IS SATISFYING GRACE (Ruth 2:8-9, 14-16)
 - a) Boaz made sure that Ruth was protected and cared for.
 - i) He allowed Ruth to stay in his field.
 - ii) He told her to help herself to all that his workers had.
 - iii) He told his workers to leave extra grain for her.
 - iv) He invited Ruth to eat at the table and to eat until she was satisfied.
 - v) He gave her plenty of provisions to take home to Naomi.
 - b) One day, unbeknownst to Ruth, she would own that field.
 - i) Matthew 5:5
 - ii) All that Boaz had would become Ruth's.
 - c) God created the Earth for His people.
 - i) Psalm 24:1
 - ii) Psalm 37:11
 - iii) Romans 8:32

- 6) IT IS SECURING GRACE (Ruth 2:9, 21)
 - a) Boaz protects Ruth.

- b) Boaz charges his workers not to harm Ruth, but to protect her and to take care of her.
 - i) Ruth has come under the wings of grace, the Almighty.
- c) Ruth 2:12
 - i) Ruth, who is now under the wings of Jehovah God, is safe, secure and satisfied.
- d) When we come to our kinsman redeemer, the Lord Jesus, we are not only saved and satisfied, but we are also secure.
 - i) Jude 24-25
 - ii) 2 Timothy 1:12
 - iii) 2 Timothy 4:18

7) CONCLUSION

- a) Ephesians 2:8-9
- b) Grace is the love that God shows to sinners such as we, where there is no merit.
 - i) It is love that we do not deserve, cannot earn and would not even seek unless He first touched our hearts.
 - ii) God's riches at Christ's expense.
- c) If you will put your faith into God's hand of grace, the same God who redeemed Ruth will redeem you.
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31