



The Lord Gave

“Behold, the Redeemer” Series

Ruth 4:13-17, page 224

October 4, 2020

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God gives us further insight into his providence and exemplifies for us biblical love.

The Text: Ruth 4:13-17

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. ¹⁴ Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! ¹⁵ He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.” ¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. ¹⁷ And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

- 1) Trust the providence of God, letting the Lord be the one who “gives” (vv. 13-14, 16-17).

Don't confuse “a good” with “the good” your loving Father in his providence bestows upon you!

- 2) Ruth exemplifies for the Christian a life of covenant faithfulness or biblical love (v. 15).

In our culture, love is an emotional expression. In the Bible, love is a covenant commitment toward another person (Hesed).

Response

The Christian life involves trusting and serving our loving Father.

Sunday Text Questions for Ruth 4:13-17 (“Ruth” Series)

October 4, 2020

Pastor Mickey Klink

- 1) Starter Question: How does the Bible define “love” in a different way than our culture does?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) What does the phrase in v. 13, “and the Lord gave her conception,” teach us about the providence of God?
- 4) What might that same phrase imply about the “life” and value of an unborn baby?
- 5) Many couples struggle with infertility, including several in our church. How would you minister to such a couple?
- 6) The village women in v. 14 immediately begin by praising the Lord – not Boaz, not Ruth. Why, and what should that teach us about looking at the true source of all good things?
- 7) What an amazing claim v. 15 makes – a Moabite woman is better than 7 (the perfect number!) Jewish sons. How can the women make this claim?
- 8) Vv. 16-17 reflect culture practices that are different from ours – Naomi’s very close connection to her grandson, the towns people naming the child, and the son being said to be “born to Naomi.” What part of such details are cultural and what parts are transcultural, that is, something that God wants Christians to follow in every culture?
- 9) In light of the significance of the names of Naomi’s sons (“sickly” and “failing”), what is the significance of the fact that Naomi’s grandson’s name, Obed, means “to serve” or “servant?”
- 10) What is something in your life right now that requires you to trust and rest in God’s providence?

Further study this week: Passages on *Hesed* – biblical love/covenant faithfulness: Exodus 34:6-9 (Mon); Deuteronomy 7:9-14 (Tues); Micah 6:6-8 (Wed); Luke 10:25-37 (Thurs); 1 John 4:7-21 (Fri).