

The Why and the What “Forever Family Part III: The Broken Family” Ruth 1:1-5

FBC Canton, Sunday AM, May 16, 2021 – Bro. Mike Roberson

Introduction:

Because of Family

We believe that Christ-Centered lives make unignorable impact first in their families:

Therefore, we love all families, no matter the age or the stage. If they are grandparents who are parenting their grandkids, single-parent families, or families who are made up of his kids, our kids, and their kids (adopted or foster kids), or no kids at all. We love all families; widows and widowers, young and old, rich and poor. We love when families are reconciled to the Father and to each other. But most of all, we long for all families to be a part of the forever family of born-again blood-bought believers! WE ARE FOREVER FAMILY!

Family

- You long for all families to join Christ’s forever family.
- You take part in church fellowships to help establish lasting church family connections.
- You support ministry opportunities that draw new families to FBC.
- You help create a family environment where people feel safe and welcomed.
- You invite neighborhood families to church and special events.
- You are excited to include families of all types into the ministries of FBC.

“The events in the Book of Ruth occurred during the period of the Judges, a time not much different from our own day. If you focus only on the evils of our day, you’ll become pessimistic and cynical; but, if you ask God what field He wants you to work in and faithfully serve Him, you’ll experience His grace, love, and joy.” Chuck Missler, Ruth

Outline of Book: Chuck Missler

- Love’s Resolve Chapter 1
 - Ruth cleaving to Naomi: Ruth clings.
- Love’s Response Chapter 2
 - Ruth gleaning; Ruth gleanes.
- Love’s Request Chapter 3
 - The Threshing Floor Scene. Ruth trusts.
- Love’s Reward Chapter 4
 - The Redemption of both Land and Bride. Ruth is redeemed.

Three forces threaten to break families: a fallen world, the fallen enemy, and the fallen flesh.

All 3 had broken Israel when we open the book of Ruth!

The fallen enemy and the fallen flesh had broken Israel:

Spiritual brokenness: Judges 21:25; "There was no king in Israel, everyone did what was right in their own eyes."

The fallen world had broken Israel:

Physical brokenness: "There was a famine in the land." Ruth 1:1

The famine was in Israel, but not in Moab (less than 100 miles away)

further suggesting that the national calamity was a sign of divine judgment.

The famine would have to be several years to cause the kind of brokenness in this story.

The famine would have to be all throughout Israel, not just local.

So that the only way to deal with the brokenness of the nation was to leave the nation.

The fallen world broke Wedgwood....on....

9/15/99

Darkness Had No Victory Over the Light

On the evening of September 15, 1999, just before 7:00 pm, a crazed gunman entered Wedgwood Baptist Church and opened fire, killing seven and wounding seven. Among those were several youth who were attending a youth activity, a "Saw You at the Pole" prayer rally. From the time he entered the building, the gunman fired over 100 rounds from two different handguns, and exploded a homemade pipe bomb in the Worship Center where the youth activity was being held. The gunman then sat down in the back of the Worship Center and ended his own life.

I will be leading through principles from Ruth today, not points...because brokenness clouds the logic and an appeal to your heart is the only way through...

Let's stand and read and pray for the Lord to heal broken families today...

In the midst of a broken land; we always find a broken family. v. 1-5

Elimelech: my God is King. He sold or lost his land of promise...do you wonder if he gave up on the God who keeps promises?

Mahlon: sick; ("Unhealthy"; "to blot out")

Chilion: wasting. ("Puny"; "to perish")

Naomi: pleasant...would become Mara; bitter.

The real question is whether or not you believe that God can make the bitter...better.

20] And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.

“...Naomi” - means “pleasant.”

“...Mara” - means “bitter” (Ex 15:22-27).

“...Almighty”: She used the name; *Shaddai*, a name for God used 48 times in the Old Testament (31 of those is found in the Book of Job).

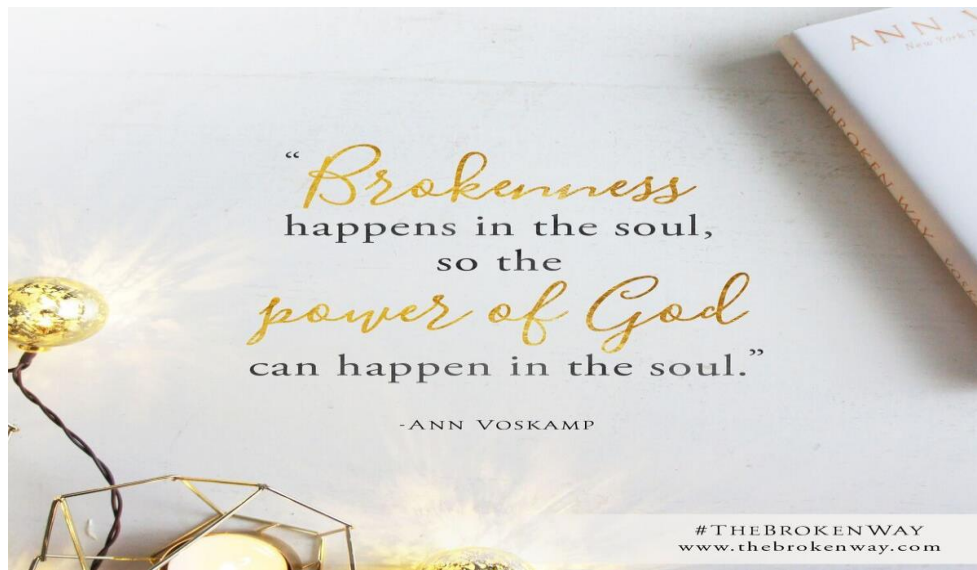
They leave the land of promise and go and live in a foreign land. They would be there for 10 years.

I am living this day in a foreign land. This world is not my home.

“...sojourn”: rWG *ger*, which means “a resident alien.” The root meaning means “to live among people who are not blood relatives; as a foreigner.” This indicates the purpose of the trip was not permanent residency: v. 1

How long can you live in the foreign land and not be broken? Job 17:11

Job 17:11 *My days are past, My purposes are broken off, Even the thoughts of my heart.*



You can only live in the foreign and broken land by faith. Habakkuk 2:4

Elimelech dies=Naomi becomes a widow.

Mahlon and Chilion marry. – Orpah (“Fawn”) [Ultimately returns]
– Ruth (“Desirable”) [Remains with Naomi]

Mahlon and Chilion die=Naomi now is alone. Ruth and Orpah become widows.

Brokenness has found her. When did brokenness find you?

Naomi returns to Israel.

Orpah stays in the land of compromise and marries a man named Winfrey...LOL

Ruth: Ruth 1:16-18

¹⁶ But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. ¹⁷ Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me." ¹⁸ When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her."

Sevenfold Decision

- 1) For whither thou goest, I will go;
- 2) where thou lodgest, I will lodge:
- 3) thy people *shall be* my people,
- 4) and thy God my God:
- 5) Where thou diest, will I die,
- 6) and there will I be buried:
- 7) the LORD do so to me, and more also, *if ought* but death part thee and me.

They return to the land of promise...brokenness drives us back to God's promises like nothing else can.

Naomi: pleasant...would become Mara; bitter. v. 20

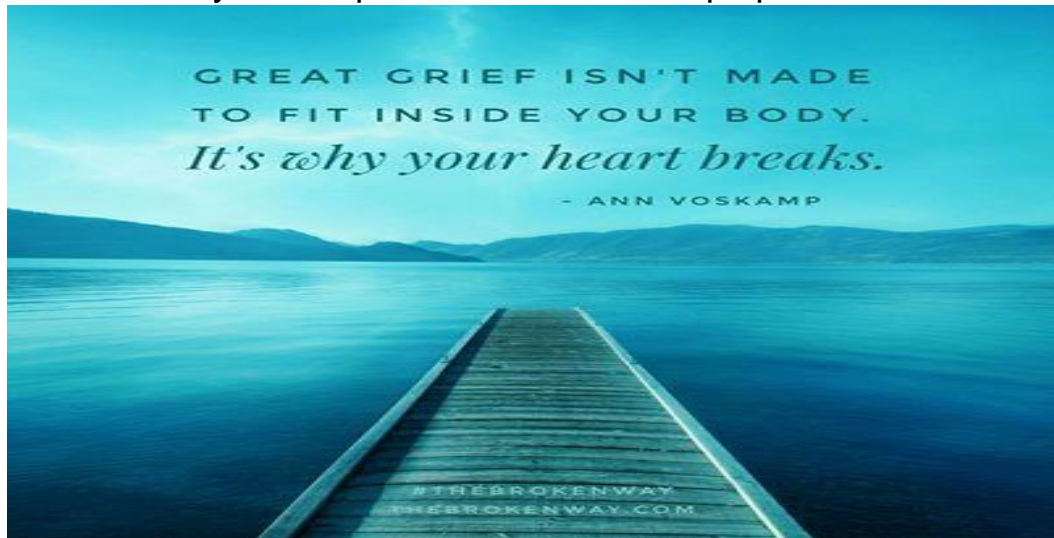
The real question is whether or not you believe that God can make the bitter...better.

She believes God's hand is against her! v. 13

The only way for God to make you better from your bitterness is when you become broken. Matt 12:15-21

But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all. ¹⁶ Yet He warned them not to make Him known, ¹⁷ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ¹⁸ "Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ He will not quarrel nor cry out, Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. ²⁰ A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice to victory; ²¹ And in His name Gentiles will trust."

That makes you receptive to God who keeps promises.



The God who keeps promises always has a loving redeemer in store; Boaz. Ch. 2

1] And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.

"...a kinsman": kinsman, relative; the term also implies a history of valor, strong in strength ("mighty man"). The blood-relationship was with *Elimelech* (not with Naomi): potentially he could be a kinsman redeemer;

"...Boaz": Name means "In him there is strength." His name is not only important in Ruth, but his name is also chosen by Solomon for one of the two pillars of the Temple. Boaz is a kinsman. The plot thickens...

He is a wealthy Israelite. He is willing. He is able. He is a widower. It is his field that Ruth 'happens' to come and glean. Notes from Chuck Missler, Ruth.

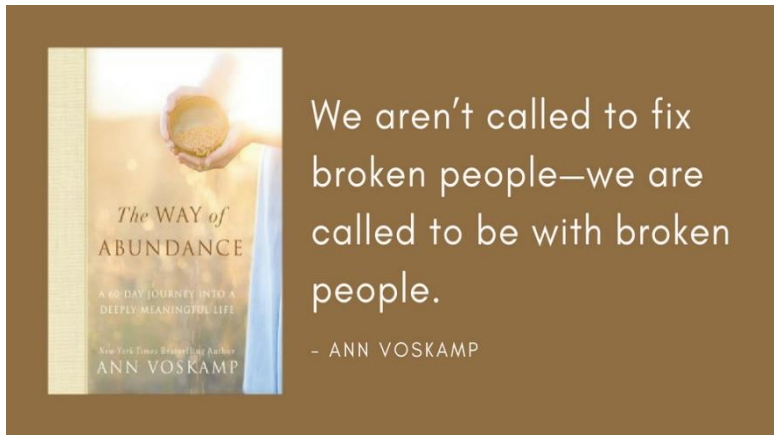
It is the redeemer's gracious offer that attracts the broken family. 2:11-13

Ruth 2:11-13

¹¹ And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. ¹² The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."

¹³ Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants."

I am the God who will be with you.



I will grant favor to you. v. 14

I have a land for you to live.

I will provide.

You will be part of the family. v. 8 'my daughter'

I will redeem what you have lost.

I will care for you.

I see you.

10] Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?
 Hebrew play on words: "You have noticed the unnoticed": Grace is basis.

I have heard all about you.

I will be your refuge.

I will satisfy you. v. 14

Ch. 3: 1-5

The redeemer of all things works to provide for our redemption from our brokenness. Psalm 34:19-22

¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.

²⁰ He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken. ²¹ Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned. ²² The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

He will provide security. v. 1

He is our kin.

He longs for us to make the first move to come into his loving plan of redemption. v. 3-4

We must trust in his completed work.

He will redeem us from the one who has a hold on us: Sin's brokenness
Our Kinsman-Redeemer

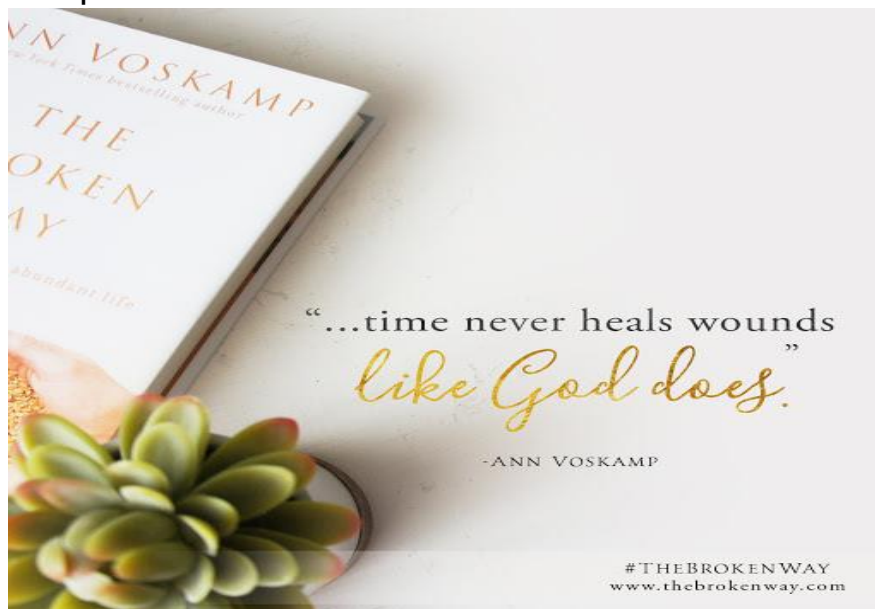
Christ, like Boaz, is not free to move in your behalf until you claim Him as your Kinsman-Redeemer. Christ died on the cross for you; He went through hell for you; and He even today stands at the door of your heart and knocks, saying, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." (Rev 3:20). But He won't crash the door down. It's *your* move.

Ruth 3:18 Then she said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."

Chapter 4

God does not change the fallen world or fallen nature that caused the brokenness. He calls us to himself to heal our brokenness. Psalm 51:17

¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart — These, O God, You will not despise.



He is our redeemer.

Goel: Kinsman Redeemer. There were four requirements:

- 1) near kinsman;
- 2) able to perform;
- 3) willing to perform.
- 4) must assume all the obligations involved

Boaz redeemed:

The land. Bethlehem would be the birthplace of the Messiah!

Ruth would be a part of the line of David! Chapter 4...last few verses.
The Israelite widow who had been displaced from her land.
Even though the law forbids marrying a gentile bride, through grace Boaz did.
No matter how much Boaz loved Ruth, he had to await *her* move.
He gave Naomi and Ruth a new family.
The family that had died was never lost or forgotten by God.
The family that was created did not replace the old family.
The family that was created added to the love of the original family.
The enemy of the nearer kin was defeated. Just like Satan is defeated.
The price for the land, the widow and the bride were all paid completely by the redeemer.
Boaz, not Ruth, confronts the "Nearer Kinsman."



Isn't it time for you to allow God to begin to heal your brokenness?

... year-old girl left this
and killed my friends, but because of Calvary, I forgive you."
Beneath this incredible message was a picture of a hill with three crosses.

The Ashbrook Family

Sometime during the weekend of the shooting, amidst the funerals and memorial services, the thought crossed my mind, "What about the Ashbrook family? Is anyone ministering to them?"

I expressed this concern to the leading detective in charge of the investigation and requested that he ask the family if we could meet with them. They had come to Fort Worth to donate their brother's organs to science and to have his body cremated. They were gathered at their lawyer's office downtown when my church Administrator, Mike Holton, and I met with them.

We expressed our concern for them and our conviction that none of them were in any way at fault. They had already received hate mail and anonymous threats. Then, we prayed together.

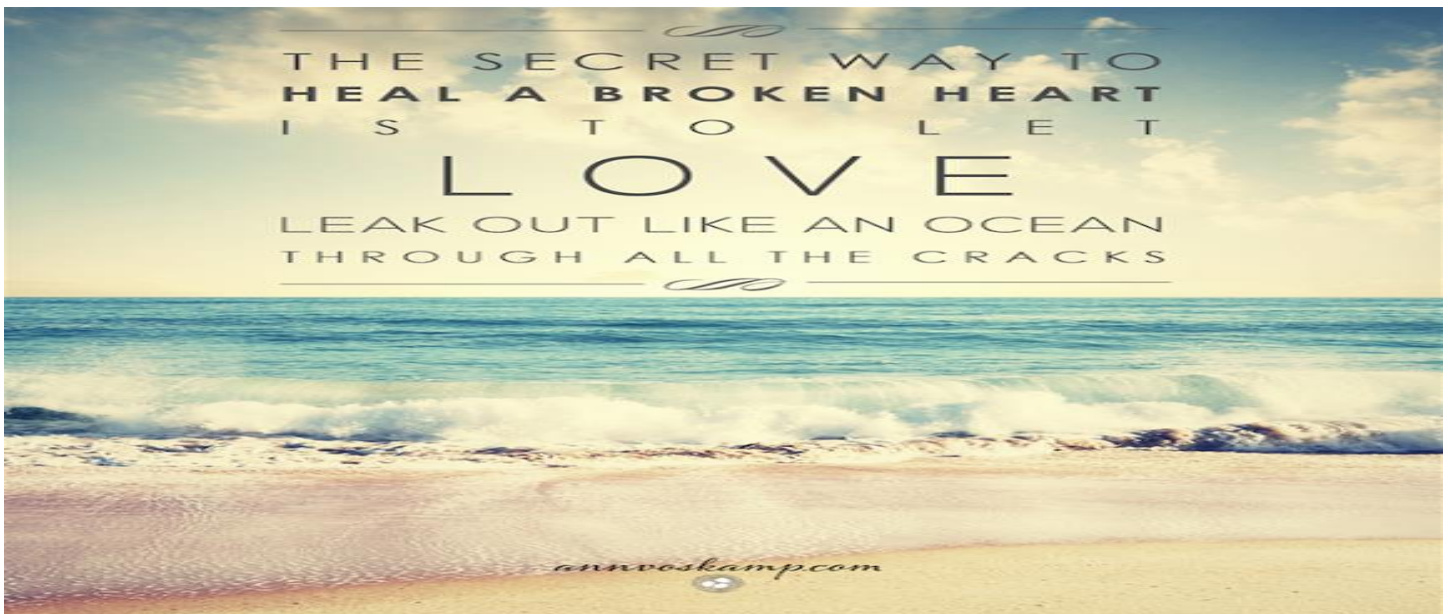
It was not a long meeting, but it was an important one. Six months later, we received a call from a nearby church of the Ashbrook's denomination. The family had sold their brother's home and wanted to give Wedgwood Baptist Church the proceeds of the sale to help the victims.

We met together with the family, their pastor, and the elders of their church. A few leaders plus Kevin Galey and Jeff Laster, two victims who were now out of the hospital, accompanied me.

We spoke words of love and healing. We prayed. We held hands and sang, "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love."

Chuck Missler: Reflexive Observations

- In order to bring Ruth to Naomi, Naomi had to be exiled from her land.
 - What the Law could not do, Grace did.
 - Ruth does not *replace* Naomi.
 - Ruth learns of Boaz's ways thru Naomi.
 - Naomi meets Boaz thru Ruth.
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- In Chapter 1, Ruth doesn't even know that Boaz exists.
 - In Chapter 2, Ruth is a poor laborer, gleaning in the field of Boaz and receiving his gifts. To her, Boaz is only a mighty man of wealth who shows kindness to her.
 - The turning point is in Chapter 3 where Ruth yields herself at the feet of Boaz and believes his promises. The result is recorded in Chapter 4: Ruth is no longer a poor gleaner, for now she has Boaz, *and everything he owns belongs to her.*
 - Too many of God's people are content to live in Chapter 2, picking up the leftovers and doing the best they can in their difficult situation. What a difference it would make if they would only surrender themselves to the Lord and focus on the Giver instead of the gifts!



9/15/99

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Please note for Further Reading Download Dr. Dan Crawford's book: [Night of Tragedy: A Dawning of Light](#)

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In the years since this tragedy took place, there have been tears, sadness, questions, lots of prayer, and of course, healing. In the days and weeks after the event the victims, their families, and the church saw an outpouring of love and support, not just from our community, but from across the world. We received cards, flowers, quilts, Bibles, posters, and emails, among other items, from people who wanted us to know they were praying for us and they supported us. We can never express completely how much this love and support meant and still means to us. It brought great comfort to us all.

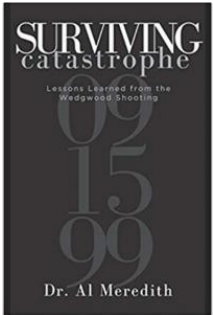
In 2 Corinthians Chapter 1, the Bible talks about God as our Comforter. In verses 3-4 it says, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." We know that God was our comfort after the tragedy at Wedgwood. And as we continue to walk in His comfort and healing (because it is an ongoing process), His strength, His love, and His comfort, allow us to reach out to others who are experiencing trouble in their life, and be a source of comfort to them. And while we will never forget the tragedy of this day, we want to use the comfort God gave and still gives us, to comfort those He sends our way.

Our prayer is that you will allow God to comfort you, and that you will reach out to him and allow Him to be your hope, your peace, and your salvation.



[20th Year Anniversary Event](#)

Read more about September 15



[Surviving Catastrophe: Lessons Learned from the Wedgwood Shooting by Dr. Al Meredith](#)