

SERMON NOTES

Sunday 11 June
sunnysidechurch

Ruth: stories of faithfulness

Bible passage: Ruth 1.1-9

Introduction

- People who inspire and encourage us as a Christian: famous people, those known to us and Bible characters
- Help us to see what it looks like to live lives of faithfulness

Ruth 1.1-9

- Sets the scene and introduces some key characters
- Explains why Naomi and Ruth are in vulnerable position and need to make hard choices so that they have security and stability

Hesed

- Theme woven through God's great story and stories like those in the book of Ruth
- Covenant word which hard to translate but recognise it when we see it in stories like those of Naomi, Ruth and Boaz
- Includes ideas of love, faithfulness, loyalty and kindness
- God's kindness often mediated through kindness of others
- Human kindness reflects the kindness God shows his people

Conclusion

The book of Ruth is

- Encouraging story of redemption and transformation
- Powerful story of God at work as people live lives of faithfulness

Some questions for discussion

1. Who are the people whose stories inspire and encourage you as a Christian?
2. Read Ruth 1.1-9. What do you notice about this passage?
3. Naomi, Ruth and Orpah are very vulnerable. What makes them so and who might be their equivalents today?
4. *Hesed* is an important idea in the book of Ruth. Can you give some examples of how you have experienced God's loving kindness?
5. *Hesed* appears in the book of Ruth in 1.8, 2.20 and 3.10. Read these verses. How do they help deepen your understanding of *Hesed*?
6. God's kindness is often mediated through the kindness of others. Can you think of some examples where this has been true for you?
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through this passage? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

May the Lord show you kindness

Ruth 1.8

Why not spend some time thanking God for his kindness to you and ask him to show you how you can show his kindness to others?

Revd Rebecca Fardell