

Ruth – Friendship, refuge and redemption

Ruth 1:16-18, 2:1-13 & 3:7-9

Introduction

A journey.

Joy hidden by sorrow.

Friendship

Ruth

Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.’ (Ruth 1:16-17)

Jesus

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. (John 15:15)

Refuge

Ruth

‘May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.’ (Ruth 2:12)

Jesus

²⁸ ‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.’ (Matthew 11:28-30)

Redemption

Ruth

‘Who are you?’ he asked.

‘I am your servant Ruth,’ she said. ‘Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer^[a] of our family.’ (Ruth 3:9)

Jesus

²⁰ Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. ²¹ She said to herself, 'If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.'

²² Jesus turned and saw her. 'Take heart, daughter,' he said, 'your faith has healed you.' And the woman was healed at that moment. (Matthew 9:20-22)

Conclusion

Ruth's friendship was rewarded by finding refuge and redemption.

Jesus our risen saviour calls us friends, and like Ruth we find refuge and redemption within this friendship.

Questions

What are some of the marks of a life lived in friendship with Jesus?

Ruth found refuge in the God of Israel, Jesus invites us to find refuge in him, what might it mean for us to experience refuge?

What does redemption mean to you?