



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 061 - Where's The Punch Line?

Ruth 4:16-17

Boaz is introduced to us in chapter two, verse one as a “worthy man.” The original Hebrew for that term is “a mighty man of valor,” a term usually used for a seasoned warrior. He was a man of great faith who was well respected in the town of Bethlehem. He was a man of action who wasn’t afraid to step forward and do what must be done.

- Describe a man you know who would also fit this description.
- How do you try to model your life after him?
- How does God transform us into mighty men of valor?

At first Boaz was impressed with Ruth because of her loyalty to her mother-in-law Naomi, his relative’s widow (Ruth 2:11-12). Then he was impressed by the fact this young widow approached him for marriage and not one of the younger men (chapter 3). Boaz took it on himself to clear all the legal hurdles to redeem Naomi’s property and take Ruth as his wife.

- How did Boaz demonstrate his faith and love for God in his actions?
- Boaz and Ruth were two loyal and selfless people brought together by God and united in marriage. What can we learn about strengthening our marriages by observing them?

The reason the book of Ruth belongs in the Bible is because of two important descendants of Boaz and Ruth: King David and his later descendant Jesus Christ our Lord. It is all the more remarkable since Ruth was not a Jew, but a Moabite. Moab’s father was Abraham’s nephew Lot. As we saw in Genesis 19, Lot’s wife died while fleeing Sodom (she looked back and became a pillar of salt). Lot fled with his two daughters and lived in isolation in a cave. His daughters decided the only way they would ever have children is to get their father drunk and sleep with him. Through this incest, the oldest daughter became the mother of Lot’s son Moab, the ancestor of the Moabites. The youngest daughter became the mother of Lot’s other son Ammon, ancestor of the Ammonites.

- What impact does it have on you to realize God can bring great things out of our greatest failings?
- What comfort does Jesus’ human family tree bring to imperfect people like us?
- What does this book say to us about treating others with respect and hospitality?