

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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April 5, 2026

“The Book Of Ruth”

By David Weaks



The events of the book of Ruth take place during the turbulent period of the Judges (1:1), one of the darkest times in Israel's history.

The nation sank to its lowest point of rebellion and sin. Israel knew no restraint in the matter of sin; they practiced idolatry, made alliances with foreign nations, and in general turned their backs on God. The book of Ruth stands out as a beacon of righteousness during this dark time.

There was an Ephrathite from Bethlehem in Judah named Elimelech. He moved his family from Bethlehem to the land of Moab. His wife was named Naomi, and he had two sons named Mahlon and Chilion (1:1-2). In time Elimelech died, leaving his family to dwell in Moab (1:3). Some time later Mahlon and Chilion also died, leaving their wives, Ruth and Orpah as widows along with Naomi (1:4-5).

This change of circumstances left Naomi in a tough spot. She was suddenly a matriarch and was responsible for the welfare of her daughters-in-law. She returned to her home in Judah (1:6-7), but she realized that she had no realistic chance to provide for herself and the girls that she now regarded as her daughters.

Her life as an elderly widow would be hard enough, but with the added responsibility to care for Ruth and Orpah, her life would have been near impossible. However, Naomi knew that her daughters-in-law were still young enough to find new husbands provided they returned to the land of Moab and their own people (1:8-14).

Orpah complied with Naomi's request that the girls return to Moab, but Ruth did not. She clung to Naomi and vowed not to leave her all alone. Ruth was willing to turn her back on her own people and a chance for a better life in order to remain with Naomi (1:16-17).

Ruth's devotion to Naomi is legendary. Now, centuries removed from the events of the book, people still read the book and marvel at Ruth's love and devotion. In fact, Ruth's tender words of love are recited in thousands of wedding ceremonies every year. Her lines are often read by new brides as a public declaration of their devotion to their husbands.

As amazing as Ruth's devotion to her mother-in-law was, it put Naomi in a genuine pickle. Her heart may have been warmed by Ruth's sweet words of devotion, but they must also have produced a knot in her stomach as she worried how she would provide for herself and her daughter. She asked Ruth to call her Mara from that time onward. Mara means bitterness (1:20).

When the chips were down, Naomi rallied. She was a shrewd and resourceful woman. She and Ruth returned to Bethlehem just as the barley harvest was getting underway. This provided them a chance to earn a meager living. The Jews had a law which required farmers to leave grain on the ground when it fell during harvest time. The fallen grain could then be gathered up by the poor for use as their

food (Leviticus 19:9; 23:22; Deuteronomy 24:19-21). Naomi sent Ruth to work in the fields of Boaz, who was very wealthy (2:1-2).

When Boaz returned to his fields from his home in Bethlehem, he noticed Ruth immediately and asked his servants who she was (2:4-5). When they were introduced, Ruth asked Boaz to allow her to glean after the reapers (2:7), and Boaz instructed her to glean only in his fields (2:8-10). He told her that he had heard of her kindness to Naomi and how Ruth had sacrificed her own security by not returning to Moab when she had the chance (2:11-12). Boaz knew a good woman when he met one, and he made up his mind to repay Ruth for her kindness to a member of his family. Later in the day, Boaz gave Ruth a place at the family table at meal time (2:14). He also instructed his laborers to allow some extra grain to fall to the ground so that Ruth could have it (2:15).

Ruth gleaned in the field of Boaz until the evening and managed to gather an ephah of barley (2:17). She presented the grain and some of her own dinner to Naomi, alerting Naomi to the fact that Boaz was uncommonly interested in Ruth. She advised Ruth to stay close to Boaz (2:20-23).

Naomi was many things - she was astute, shrewd, a loving mother in law - but she was also a great match maker. She saw in Boaz a man who was the solution to hers and Ruth's problems, and she saw in him a potential husband for Ruth. She instructed Ruth to bathe, put on makeup, and her finest clothes and go to visit Boaz where he and his men were winnowing barley (3:1-3). She instructed Ruth to lie down at Boaz's feet when he went to sleep and to uncover his feet (3:4-5). Naomi knew the custom of her people with regard to servants. Servants were allowed to bed down at their master's feet and to use the extra covers at the end of the bedding for their own needs. The action of Ruth uncovering Boaz's feet would awaken him, and he would further instruct Ruth.

Boaz was awaked by Ruth and knew what message her actions were sending to him. Ruth was presenting herself as a potential wife. Boaz was touched by Ruth's choice of him (3:10). He knew she could have had her choice of younger men. He assured Ruth that he wanted to perform the duty of a near kinsman and would if it fell to him. He took care to send her away in the morning before full light in order to preserve Ruth's reputation (3:13). He also sent her back with a sack full of six ephahs of barley (3:15). This seems to me to have been his way of signaling to Naomi: "Message received!" (3:16-17).

Boaz indeed wanted to marry Ruth, but he knew that there was another kinsman with a greater claim than his own in the matter. Dutifully, Boaz presented Naomi and Ruth's case to the nearer kinsman (4:1-5). The nearer kinsman was ready to jump at the chance to enhance his own holdings with those of Ruth (4:4), but Boaz was as shrewd as Naomi. He told the man that he would also have to redeem Ruth and Naomi and raise up offspring to Ruth's dead husband's name (4:5). Boaz knew that would likely sour the deal for the man, and it did. He declined his right leaving Boaz free and clear to take Ruth for his wife and to become the head of her household (4:6).

In all things Boaz proved himself to be a man of honor and responsibility. His conduct toward Ruth and Naomi was proper at every step. He respected the custom of his people concerning the redemption of the property of a near kinsman (4:7-8). While the nearer kinsman refused his right out of the fear that he might jeopardize his wealth, Boaz was eager to perform his duty. He gladly took upon himself the care of Ruth and Naomi along with the tremendous duty of becoming the patriarch of the family.

Boaz became to Naomi a restorer of life and a nourisher of her old age (4:15). He was truly a hero to these women and to Jewish history. In the midst of one of Israel's darkest periods, wherein men abandoned God for idols and for greed, Boaz was a beacon of righteousness that also shines in the family tree of Jesus Christ (4:21-22; Matthew 1:6).

Come to think of it, this book could just as easily have a subtitle: The Book of Boaz, could it not?



With Billy Randolph
April 19th–22nd
Sunday–9:00 AM
Monday–Wednesday–7:00 PM

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Stacy & Annette Meeks, Anita Harris' mother: Hillard Switcher, Kiefer Norman (Robbie Doles' relative), Evelyn Trimble, Danny Briggs (cancer), Kelcy Whittemore, Cameron Hutchins, the McCarthy family in Baldwyn (two men have cancer, one is terminal), Josh Boswell, Karen Kennemur, Dianne Johnson, And Conner Whittemore.

Updates: Billy Grisham is home recovering from a fall at age 94.

Sherry Fuqua Doles is still in Rehabilitation in Iuka.

Camden (Chad's son) is still sore from his hunting accident.

Miss Robbie Doles' great grand-daughter, Macy Grace Lambert, was hit by a train.

Her visitation is this Sunday from 5:00 to 8:00 PM.

Monday Visitation: 1:00 to 2:00 PM. Funeral: 2:00 PM.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:

Paul Busby

Preaching:

Brian Meade

Sermon #1:

"Christians Under Pressure"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook:

Brian Meade

Revelation

Author:

By Dan H. King Sr.

Starting Page & Question:

Page #74, Question #1

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:

Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:

Russell Briggs

Scripture Reading:

John 19:14-19

Song Leader:

Jerry Kennemur

Lord's Supper:

Danny Sheffield

Assisting:

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Preaching:

Brian Meade

Sermon #2:

"When I Survey The Wondrous Cross"

Closing Prayer:

Fred Johnson

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

April 8, 2026

Auditorium Bible Class:

Russell Briggs

Workbook:

The Book Of Mark

Author:

By Mike Willis

Starting Page & Question:

Page #30, Question #26

Invitation:

Dan Cottrell

Song Leader:

Brian Meade

Closing Prayer:

Steven Cottrell



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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“Christians Under Pressure”

Lesson Text: **Romans 12:1-2.**

I. Pressure To Conform To The World.

- **Romans 12:2**, Conformity Is What The World Wants! **John 15:19.**
- **Conform:** “to form or mold one’s behavior in accordance with a particular pattern or set of standards— ‘to shape one’s behavior, to conform one’s life.” (Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. 1996).
- The Conform In All Areas Of Life:
 - In The Way We Talk, Dress, Behave, & Think....
 - To Involve Ourselves In The Same Sins!
 - There Is Great Pressure To Line Up With The World!
- But When We Don’t Give In To The World, It Notices We’re Different- **1 Peter 4:3-4.**
- This Often Brings The Hatred Of The World Against Us- **John 17:14; 1 John 3:13.**
- We Must Always Remember: **1 John 2:17.**

II. Pressure To Be Dishonest.

- Dishonesty Is A Major Problem In The World! **Revelation 21:8.**
- **1 Samuel 8:3; Proverbs 11:1; Proverbs 20:23; Ezekiel 22:27; Titus 1:10-12.**
- There Is Pressure For Us To Be Dishonest For What It Can Gain Us!
 - To Cheat Others, The Government, Friends, & Family Alike By Dishonesty.
- But God Demands Honesty- **Leviticus 19:35-37; 2 Cor. 8:21; 1 Peter 2:1.**

III. Pressure To Be Pleasers Of Men.

- King Saul- **1 Samuel 15:24.**
- Absalom- **2 Samuel 15:2-6.**
- Jews- **John 12:42-43.**
- Pilate- **John 19:12.**
- But Not Paul- **Galatians 1:10.**

IV. Pressure To Give Up The Faith.

- Have You Ever Felt This Pressure?
- No Christian Is Immune From This Pressure!
- We Are To Endure To The End- **Mark 13:13; Revelation 2:10.**
- Some Christians Will Not Endure:
 - **Luke 8:13; 2 Timothy 4:10.**
- There Is Pressure To Give Up The Fight! **Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 12:3.**
 - **Galatians 6:9; 2 Corinthians 4:8-10**
- Heaven Is Surely Worth It All!

“When I Survey The Wondrous Cross”

Lesson Text: **John 19:14-19.** When We Look To The Cross....

I. I See An Instrument Of Death.

- Luke 23:33.
- Philippians 2:8.

II. I See The Blood Atonement For Our Debt.

- John 19:34.
- Hebrews 9:12-14.

III. I See The Awfulness Of My Sin.

- Why Did God Require Animal Sacrifices?
- Why Did Jesus Die On The Cross?
- 1 John 2:2.
- Proverbs 14:9; Romans 6:23.

IV. I See The Fulfillment Of Bible Prophecies.

- Luke 24:44-45; Isaiah 53:5-7; Psalm 22:15-18.
- Matthew 5:17.

V. I See The Grace Of God Shown At Calvary.

- Hebrews 2:9; Ephesians 2:8-9.
- Luke 23:41.

VI. I See The Love Of God Fully Demonstrated.

- John 3:16-17; Romans 5:8.
- 1 John 3:1.

VII. I See Salvation & Forgiveness Offered To The World.

- Matthew 26:28;
- Acts 2:36-41.