

God is good – all the time! All the time – God is good! The book of Ruth

There is a saying that has been thrown around in Christian circles for years. It goes like this, “God is good... all the time! All the time... God is good!”

Unfortunately, we too often only acknowledge God’s goodness when our lives are good, or only after we’ve seen how God has brought good into our lives out of our difficult circumstances!

But what about when we are in the midst of the hardships/pain/loss of life?

- What about when you are hungry & there is no food to eat?
- What about when you are forced to move out of your home?
- What about in the midst of losing a spouse?
- What about when your kids choose to date/marry the wrong person?
- What about when you lose a child, or both your children?
- What about when you have to make a “lose-lose” situation decision?
- What about when you are jobless & can’t provide for yourself/family?
- What about when you have no one to carry on your name after you die?
- What about when you’re the victim of prejudice/injustice/racism?
- What about when you feel that God is the one responsible for your current situation & that He has dealt harshly with you?

These are some of the questions that reading the book of Ruth will prompt!

This book is only 4 chapters long, but it is full of faith altering paradoxes!

- How can God be good..., when all the time life seems to be falling apart?

Living in a broken & fallen world will make us question the goodness of God!

Living in a broken & fallen world will challenge the very core of our beliefs!

But living in a broken & fallen world will also provide fertile ground for the seeds of faith to grow!

The story of Ruth & Naomi – Ruth 1-2

Naomi said in 1:20-21, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the Lord has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”

What do these statements reveal about Naomi’s perspective on God?

- He is the Almighty! But that doesn’t make Him good!

- He is behind the events that occur, & that makes His goodness suspect!
- He is angry and He deals bitterly with His people! How is that good?

How many of us have been there - struggling to believe in the goodness of God?

In CH. 2:20, Naomi has a change of perspective - “May he (Boaz) be blessed by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!” Naomi also said to her, “The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers.”

Naomi’s eyes were opened, & now she begins to see God differently!

- He is a God who shows kindness even in the midst of loss/pain!
- He is a God who does not forget/forsake His people, living or dead!
- He is a God who orchestrates events, but also provides providentially!

Naomi’s perspective on God changed, but it still took positive changes in her life circumstances to happen first before she came to these conclusions!

How often is the same true for us? What are our beliefs about God based on?

God knew that Naomi & Ruth needed a redeemer! He knows that we do too!

God provided Boaz as the kinsman-redeemer they needed! Boaz took on the responsibility, as a relative, to act on their behalf & deliver them out of their place of trouble!

God has provided Jesus Christ, as the kinsman-redeemer we needed, when He took on flesh & became our brother at birth, & our Savior in His death!

Without seeing our need for a redeemer, we would trust in worldly things!

- For Naomi & Ruth – the land, their husbands, earthly provisions!
- For us – our money, possessions, career, status, earthly relationships!

God often goes out of focus when life is either really good, or really bad!

But Jesus Christ is the lens by which we can see God more clearly, no matter what is going on in our lives, or in the world around us!

By the end of the book of Ruth, God is in His rightful place, & Naomi & Ruth get to be a part of something far greater than just a “good” earthly life!

- They both become heirs of God’s promise, recipients of God’s goodness, & Ruth gets named in the ancestral line of King David and Jesus Christ!

We may not always see God’s goodness in our lives either, but it’s always there! Whenever it gets blurred by life’s circumstances, look to Jesus for clarity!

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