

**November 13, 2016 Loving Kindness - Ruth**

“May the LORD reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the LORD, the God of Israel, under Whose wings you have come for refuge.” Ruth 2:11-12

"Blessed be Boaz by the LORD, whose kindness (**hesed**) has not forsaken the living or the dead!" Ruth 2:20

“Obed shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.” Ruth 4:15

Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings... Psalm 17:8

*The Torah lays down expectations about how Israelites must treat foreigners in need who come to take refuge in Israel when Israelites are better off than they are. They are supposed to treat them with respect and care. The way Boaz puts it is by speaking of Ruth's coming for refuge with Yahweh, under His 'skirts'. This Hebrew word is also the word for the wings of a bird, so you can imagine a chick being shielded by the mother's feathered wings. It is what Israelites themselves do: they pray, "Will you hide me in the shadow of your skirts/wings" (Ps 17:8)*

-John Goldingay

"What does the Lord require of you? Is it to be a present-day redeemer for another? It may not be necessary for you to give your life, or even to relocate to another country. Much simpler acts of reaching out to help others in need is what the world needs now." - Mary Lautensleger

**Next week:** The STORY series continues. **1 Samuel (pt 1)**

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# THE STORY

FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY

Doing what is right in your own eyes is never good.

Naomi's bitter grief is not the end of the story.

God's "hesed" is uncommon loving kindness.

God acts through the faithfulness of people.

Naomi is quick to name God as the source of blessing.

God's kindness—through Boaz—gave Naomi hope.

Ruth is Naomi's greatest blessing.

King David will have a moabite great-grandmother.

God uses unexpected people to accomplish His will.

Beyond what is risky and distasteful—GOD is.

'hesed' (mercy, grace, & uncommon loving kindness)

We can trust the Lord to see us through!

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