

Today's passage is the final part of the Book of Ruth. By reading the Book of Ruth to the end, you'll realize that it is a story of restoration. It tells of a painful family that experienced loss during the dark period of the Judges and how its members are restored and blessed. So, how can we participate in God's work of restoration?

First, Speak Words of Blessing

No matter how difficult and challenging our circumstances may be, to experience the blessing of restoration, we need to speak words of blessing. In times of hardship, people often instinctively protect themselves by criticizing others and blaming their circumstances. However, the Book of Ruth surprisingly emphasizes people who bless each other during the dark period of the Judges. In today's passage, verses 14-15, the women of Bethlehem bless Boaz, Ruth, Naomi, and the newborn child as soon as he is born. Additionally, Naomi, in the early part of the book, blesses her two daughters-in-law while telling them to leave her. The people of Bethlehem also continually bless and encourage Naomi and Ruth, who returned to Bethlehem during a time of plenty after leaving during a famine. Boaz, too, consistently speaks words of blessing, blessing his servants, and always starting conversations with Ruth with words of blessing. And according to these blessings, God restores lives, families, and communities. I bless our church and our small groups to be communities of blessing in the name of the Lord.

Second, Show Kindness with God's Love

In difficult times, people often become more selfish to protect themselves. Yet, those who experience restoration in the Book of Ruth and the communities around them show kindness to each other with God's love. The term "chesed" expresses this kindness, which means showing God's love and treating others with that love. Naomi's two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, treated their mother-in-law with kindness. When Ruth proposed to Boaz, he said Ruth had treated him with kindness. Boaz also showed kindness to Ruth. In today's passage, the elderly mother-in-law Naomi becomes the nurse of Obed. See verse 16. It's not easy for an elderly mother-in-law to become a caregiver. It means offering the best love she can to Ruth, Boaz, and Obed. God values when His people show kindness. Since God is alive, our Father, and loves us to the point of giving His Son, He will not forget the kindness shown to us, His sons and daughters. He will surely remember and repay with even greater blessings and grace.

Third, Draw Near to God

No matter what moment we are in, we should choose to turn towards God. Every problem can be an opportunity to draw nearer to God or to drift further away from Him. Today's passage emphasizes this as well. The term "redeemer of life" in verse 15 is similar to the phrase "return to the Lord" from chapter 1. The Book of Ruth contrasts stories of those who turned to God in times of trouble with those who distanced themselves from Him. The more difficult and painful the time, the more we need to seek God's grace and fervently pray. We need to come to the place of worship and the place of the Word. At that time, the living and almighty God will restore and rebuild our lives.

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.”
(Galatians 6:7-8)

**Bible
Reading**

9/9(Mon)	9/10(Tue)	9/11(Wed)	9/12(Thur)	9/13(Fri)	9/14(Sat)	9/15(Sun)
Ezekiel 11-13	Ezekiel 14-16	Ezekiel 17-19	Ezekiel 20-21	Ezekiel 22-23	Ezekiel 24-27	Ezekiel 28-30

QT

Quiet Time Passage

9/9(Mon)	9/10(Tue)	9/11(Wed)	9/12(Thur)	9/13(Fri)	9/14(Sat)	9/15(Sun)
Nehemiah 5:14-19	Nehemiah 6:1-14	Nehemiah 6:15-7:4	Nehemiah 7:5-60	Nehemiah 7:61-73	Nehemiah 8:1-12	Nehemiah 8:13-18

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Share any new insights or blessings you received from today's message.
2. Reflect on areas in your life that need restoration and consider what actions you should take based on today's message for that restoration. Share your thoughts.
3. Pray for one another, blessing and seeking restoration.