

Living Water Fellowship

5TH SUNDAY IN PENTECOST

5TH JULY 2020

COME TO JESUS

WELCOME:

PRAYER OF THE DAY: (Richard Bott)

Father, when we aren't sure, help us be calm; when information comes from all sides, correct and not, help us to discern; when fear makes it hard to breathe, and anxiety seems to be the order of the day, slow us down, God; help us to reach out with our hearts, when we can't touch with our hands; help us to be socially connected, when the world says "Be socially distant." Help us to love as perfectly as we can, knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear," and in the perfect love of your Son Jesus we find perfect freedom from all that would steal kill or destroy and life abundant forever. In Jesus' Name we pray...Amen.

BIBLE READING: Ruth 4:1-6

SONG: *Have Faith in God*

[Verse 1]

Oh Lord you lead me,
by the still waters
quietly restoring my soul.
You speak words of wisdom,
the promise of glory
the power of the presence of God.

Have faith in God,
let your hope rest on the faith
he has placed in your heart.
Never give up,
never let go of the faith
he has placed in your heart.

[Verse 2]

Oh Lord you guide me,
through all the darkness
turning my night into day.
you'll never leave me,
never forsake me,
the power of the presence of God.

Have faith in God,
let your hope rest on the faith
he has placed in your heart.
Never give up,
never let go of the faith
he has placed in your heart.

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GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Ruth 4:7-17

FAITH CHAT:

1. What's the biggest risk you've ever taken? Why?
2. What would make someone think they aren't "enough" to be loved by God or effective for God's purposes?
3. When you reflect on the book of Ruth...What in that account draws you closer to the Father or helps you turn more of your life over to Him to work in you?

THE MESSAGE: *RUTH: THE SWEETNESS OF REDEMPTION – FROM BITTERNESS TO BLESSING*

PRAYERS:

(Individuals are encouraged to pray for one another in their households & to include prayers for the wider Living Water family, the Wagga Wagga community, our nation and the world's leaders in this time of isolation due to virus containment)

(Individual households may also choose to celebrate Holy Communion after the online service concludes.

Please feel free to do so. If you know the Words of Institution you simply say them as you would hear them in worship. If you aren't sure, then read aloud together Paul's recount of the celebration in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. Then share the forgiveness, life and salvation Christ offers in his body and blood. The words "The body of Christ given for you" and "The blood of Christ shed for you" and appropriate elements are to be used as you celebrate together.)

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now & forever. Amen.

GO IN HIS POWER

BLESSING:

† _____, *child of God, the Father is at work in you!*
Amen.

SONG: *It is Well with my Soul*

[Verse 1]

When peace like a river, attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

[Chorus]

It is well, (it is well)
With my soul, (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul.

[Verse 2]

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has shed His own blood for my soul!

[Chorus]

It is well, (it is well)
With my soul, (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul.

[Verse 3]

My sin - O, the bliss of this glorious thought,
My sin - not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

[Chorus]

It is well, (it is well)
With my soul, (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul.

[Verse 4]

And, Lord haste the day, when our faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend!
Even so - it is well with my soul.

[Chorus 2x to end]

It is well, (it is well)
With my soul, (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Songwriters: Philip Paul Bliss / Christopher C. C. Stafford

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SHOW HIS LOVE

RUTH 4:1-6

Boaz went to the town gate and took a seat there. Just then the family redeemer he had mentioned came by, so Boaz called out to him, "Come over here and sit down, friend. I want to talk to you." So they sat down together. Then Boaz called ten leaders from the town and asked them to sit as witnesses. Boaz said to the family redeemer, "You know Naomi, who came back from Moab. She is selling the land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. I thought I should speak to you about it so that you can redeem it if you wish. If you want the land, then buy it here in the presence of these witnesses. But if you don't want it, let me know right away, because I am next in line to redeem it after you."

The man replied, "All right, I'll redeem it." Then Boaz told him, "Of course, your purchase of the land from Naomi also requires that you marry Ruth, the Moabite widow. That way she can have children who will carry on her husband's name and keep the land in the family."

"Then I can't redeem it," the family redeemer replied, "because this might endanger my own estate. You redeem the land; I cannot do it."

RUTH 4:7-17

Now in those days it was the custom in Israel for anyone transferring a right of purchase to remove his sandal and hand it to the other party. This publicly validated the transaction. So the other family redeemer drew off his sandal as he said to Boaz, "You buy the land."

Then Boaz said to the elders and to the crowd standing around, "You are witnesses that today I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion, and Mahlon. And with the land I have acquired Ruth, the Moabite widow of Mahlon, to be my wife. This way she can have a son to carry on the family name of her dead husband and to inherit the family property here in his hometown. You are all witnesses today."

Then the elders and all the people standing in the gate replied, "We are witnesses! May the Lord make this woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, from whom all the nation of Israel descended! May you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. May the Lord give you descendants by this young woman who will be like those of our ancestor Perez, the son of Tamar and Judah."

So Boaz took Ruth into his home, and she became his wife. When he slept with her, the Lord enabled her to become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son. Then the women of the town said to Naomi, "Praise the Lord, who has now provided a redeemer for your family! May this child be famous in Israel. May he restore your youth and care for you in your old age. For he is the son of your daughter-in-law who loves you and has been better to you than seven sons!"

Naomi took the baby and cuddled him to her breast. And she cared for him as if he were her own. The neighbour women said, "Now at last Naomi has a son again!" And they named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David.

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Ruth 4:1-22. What questions does this chapter bring up for you? What do you think is the main theme of this chapter?
2. Describe the contrast between Boaz & the other kinsman/family-redeemer. What is Boaz's main concern? Of what is the other man afraid? How does that work out for each of them?
3. One aspect of Boaz's strong character was his determination to go beyond the "letter of the law" and provide for the poor around him in a more gracious manner than simply following the law. How does his example challenge you? What are the aspects of your character you need to develop beyond what is required or what is expected?
4. Why might it be significant that God did not intervene in Naomi's life with obvious miracles or dazzling personal appearances? Does God act in your life as He did in Naomi's? If so, how? Does he ever do the amazing visitation spectacle for you? Which do you prefer? Why?
5. Read Matthew 1:1-6. Whom do you see here in the lineage of Jesus Christ? What do you know about Tamar, Rahab, & Bathsheeba? What else do you notice in the human family of Jesus? What does that tell you about the coming of Christ in human flesh & blood? How does his family tree resemble yours? What does that tell you about the saving love & redeeming work of the Father? How is God's plan worked out in a broken situation?
6. Judges 21:25 reminds us that this account takes place when "everyone did what was right in their own eyes," & trouble always seemed to follow. Ruth & Boaz, however, did what was right in God's eyes & saw blessing upon blessing unfold for them. How is that a motivation for you to live your life faithfully to the Father when others are doing their own thing?
7. Read the following verses of Scripture & share how God speaks to you in them:
 - a. Titus 3:4-7
 - b. Romans 5:8-10
 - c. Isaiah 44:22
 - d. Psalm 16:11
 - e. Micah 6:8
 - f. Galatians 4:4-7