

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is warm and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kid's rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now and will be moving to a permanent home on Clark and Bethany Drive this Fall. Although we might very well be cramped in the new property, it will at least have Air Conditioning!

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15 am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our moving or how you can participate, you can visit: www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Planting Roots Update

3-Year Journey Ends This November!

94% way through 3-year Journey

74% of commitments fulfilled

80% with non-commitments

September 3rd at 1pm: *Clark/Bethany Work Day*

Mark your calendars:

November 19th: *Agape & Planting Roots Culmination & Celebration! Join us as we end our Journey and look ahead to what's next!*

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Story Within The Story Week One: Providence – Ruth 1:1



Today's Verses:

Genesis 50:20
Genesis 39:2
Ruth 1:1
Judges 21:25
Genesis 19:30-37

2 Kings 2:20-22
Judges 9:45
Jeremiah 48:9
Matthew 5:13
Mark 9:50

Job 6:6
Colossians 4:6
Numbers 18:19
Leviticus 2:13
Romans 8:28

Story Within The Story Week One: Providence – Ruth 1:1

Ruth is a book of Providence and Redemption. In one sense all of the Bible is about God's Providence and Redemption, but it is very strongly pronounced in Ruth; it is one of the reasons we are calling the series "The Story Within the Story." All of our stories find meaning and hope within God's larger story of us. "Providence" simply means God's care and guidance over His creation, but when it comes to our lives we should have an understanding that He knows all that has been done to us and all that we have done...and that He can make things work out for His glory and our ultimate joy.

Providence is also seen in the story of Joseph in how he was sold into slavery by his brothers (because of Joseph's knuckleheadedness and his brother's jealousy.) Joseph becomes a slave in a foreign household, gets unjustly accused of rape, and spends the majority of his prime years in prison, yet still helps others. Eventually one of the people he helps in prison remembers him when Pharaoh has dream that needs to be interpreted. Joseph interprets the dream, rises in prominence, and oversees the salvation of an entire country during a famine. When Joseph reunites with his brothers they are worried he will have them killed; this is when Joseph says the most providential words in the bible: *Genesis 50:20 "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."*

This then becomes the story of Ruth; how God came to redeem and restore an entire people.

Ruth was a Moabite, an entire people loosely related to the Israelites that were the product of incest. The Israelites hated the Moabites and the Moabites hated the Israelites; this hatred was multigenerational in nature. In the end, God will take one of the hated Moabites and make them the great grandmother of one of Israel's greatest kings...and also the ancestor of Jesus.

The story of Ruth is meant to remind us that our past doesn't have to decide our future and whatever curse you may feel upon your life can and will be broken by the grace of God. Jesus, because He is God, can bring hope to any situation because the Gospel is true and all things rest in the providential hand of God.

Discussion

Before this week's message, how would you have defined "Providence?"

Explanation

Have you ever done something totally dumb, but God made something good come out of it? What and how?

Is there anything you are currently going through in which you are hoping/praying that God brings about good?

Application Read 2 Kings 2:19-22

Why do you think Elisha made a public display with a new bowl and salt?

How do you think the inhabitants of the town understood it?

Mission – Read Genesis 50:20

What are the places and things that God wants you to bring good instead of evil?

How can your trust of God's providence be a witness to those around you?

How can you help others to trust Jesus even when they cannot see how any good can come from a situation?

Homework: Read Ruth 1:1-5

Do names in your family have any meaning?

If so, what?

