

Richmond Hill Baptist Church

February 14, 2010

*Tough Love for Tough Times: Help for Today's Family (Ruth 1)*

Prelude

Call to Worship: *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Welcome: Happy Valentines Day and Welcome to Richmond Hill Baptist Church on this Family Day Weekend. If you are a guest please take a Connect Card and fill it out and drop it in the offering plate when it comes by. Let's greet one another!

Sing: *Praise Him, Shout to North, You Are My King, My Jesus I Love There*

Children's Corner: (Alyssa)

Offering: Thank God for your family! Parents, Spouse, Kids.

Offertory: *Psalm 44*

**Sermon:**

**Tough Love for Tough Times: Help for Today's Family from the Story of Ruth**

Today's family in North America is experiencing tough times. While the recession seems to have abated:

People continue to lose jobs.

Homes are being foreclosed on.

Retirement & saving accounts have evaporated.

Jobs demand more.

Schools demand more.

And families are feeling it:

Mental Help.net: January 14,2010: *Recession and Marriage, What is The Impact?*

Domestic Violence: It should come as no surprise that newspapers across the nation are reporting an increase in cases of domestic violence alongside unemployment rates. The reasons for the increase are not difficult to find. With unemployment reaching ten percent and more, people are at home most of the day, in the company of their spouse and children and with much greater opportunity to drink and use drugs. Unemployment causes stress, leads to depression and drugs and alcohol provide the fuel for an already explosive situation. This is fertile ground for domestic violence.

**MaCleans**, January 14, 2009: "Recession? (Hic!) What recession? **When economic times get tough, Canadians start drinking.** Unadjusted sales from large retailers of alcoholic beverages are up 17 per cent this October over October 2007, Statistics Canada reports, a striking contrast to plummeting holiday spending on gifts, travel and entertainment, which one Scotiabank survey estimated may have dipped by 13 per cent. Manitoba seems particularly in need of liquid courage, as it set a new all-time record for single-day sales on Dec. 23, traditionally a red-letter liquor-buying day. It sold \$3.6 million worth of booze in less than 24 hours.

Forbes.com: July 7, 2008: **Divorce During Recession: The end of a marriage is never a pleasant affair, but with a lousy economy it can get even uglier.**

Family analyst anticipated divorce rates to go up during the recession only to discover most people in North America cannot afford a divorce.... A couple's house is usually the biggest marital asset, and the lousy real estate market and soft economy are complicating the matter of dividing it equitably in a divorce.

### **Let me introduce to you a family experiencing tough times:**

1. Elimelech, Naomi, Mahlon (Ruth), Chilion (Orpah)
2. Jerusalem has a famine so the move to Moab
3. Elimelech dies
4. Mahlon marries Ruth. Chilion marries Orpah.
5. The boys die.
6. Naomi hears that the famine has ended in Jerusalem and decides to return.
7. Naomi tells the girls to stay.
8. Ruth, a Moabite, goes with Naomi to Jerusalem.
9. Harvest time.
10. Ruth went into the fields to pick up the leftover grain.
11. She got the attention of Boaz a wealthy landowner and a relative Naomi  
Also known as a kinsman redeemer.
12. Naomi does her best to set up Ruth and Boaz as a couple.
13. Boaz informs Ruth there is a kins redeemer who is closer than he.
14. Boaz informs the other redeemer of his obligation to redeem this family and their land.
15. The other kinsman redeemer is interested in the land but interested in marrying Ruth because it would complicate his inheritance.
16. Boaz marries Ruth and they have a baby: Obed.
17. Naomi is well care for and she enjoys being a grandmother.

### **Help for Today's Family from the Story of Ruth**

1. **Put Others First. (vs. 1:8-10)**  
**This is a selfless kind of love.**

## **Ruth 1:8-10**

*Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back, each of you, to your mother’s home. May the LORD show kindness to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me. <sup>9</sup> May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.” Then she kissed them and they wept aloud <sup>10</sup> and said to her, “We will go back with you to your people.”*

## **2. Stick Together. (vs. 1:16-17)**

**This is a faithful kind of love.**

## **Ruth 1:16-18:**

*<sup>16</sup> But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. <sup>17</sup> Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.” <sup>18</sup> When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.*

## **3. Make Godly Choices. (vs. 1:16, 3:11-13)**

**This is a righteous kind of love.**

## **Ruth 1:16**

*But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.*

## **Ruth 3:11-13**

*And now, my daughter, don’t be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All my fellow townsmen know that you are a woman of noble character. <sup>12</sup> Although it is true that I am near of kin, there is a kinsman-redeemer nearer than I. <sup>13</sup> Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to redeem, good; let him redeem. But if he is not willing, as surely as the LORD lives I will do it. Lie here until morning.”*

## **4. Look to God for Help. (vs. 2:12)**

**This is a trusting kind of love.**

## **Ruth 2:11-12**

*Boaz replied, “I’ve been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. <sup>12</sup> May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.”*

## **5. Strive to be Redemptive. (vs. 4:1-12)**

**This is a sacrificial kind of love.**

## **Ruth 4:6-10**

*At this, the kinsman-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it."<sup>7</sup> (Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.)<sup>8</sup> So the kinsman-redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it yourself." And he removed his sandal.<sup>9</sup> Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion and Mahlon.<sup>10</sup> I have also acquired Ruth the Moabitess, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from the town records. Today you are witnesses!"*

## **6. Allow Sorrow to be replaced with Blessing. (vs. 1:19-21, 2:20, 4:13-22)** **This is a maturing kind of love.**

### **Ruth 1:19-21**

*So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?"<sup>20</sup> "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter.<sup>21</sup> I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me."*

### **Ruth 2:20**

*"The LORD bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead." She added, "That man is our close relative; he is one of our kinsman-redeemers."*

### **Ruth 4:13-22**

*So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.<sup>14</sup> The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel!<sup>15</sup> He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth."<sup>16</sup> Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him.<sup>17</sup> The women living there said, "Naomi has a son." And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.<sup>18</sup> This, then, is the family line of Perez: Perez was the father of Hezron,<sup>19</sup> Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab,<sup>20</sup> Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon,<sup>21</sup> Salmon the father of Boaz, Boaz the father of Obed,<sup>22</sup> Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David.*

Genesis 12:3: God told Abraham that he would be a blessing to all the peoples of the earth.

Matthew 1:5: Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, <sup>6</sup> and Jesse the father of King David.

Galatians 4:4-7: <sup>4</sup> *But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. <sup>6</sup> Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."<sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.*

Response: There is a Redeemer

1. Pray for your family, marriage, finances, addiction.
2. Allow Jesus to become your redeemer.

New Members:

1. Brian Stott (Statement of Faith) Baptism 1978
2. Debra Stott (Statement of Faith) Baptism 2007
3. Mike Plooy (Statement of Faith) Baptism 1996
4. Chris Kong (Transfer Immanuel Baptist Church Vancouver)

Announcements:

1. Convention Sunday
2. Disaster Relief Training Event on February 27

Postlude: *Everlasting*