

For the week of July 19, 2015
Pastor: Steve Zeisler

It Is Not Good To Be Alone

Fifth week in the series 'Great is Thy Faithfulness.'

Ruth 4:1-12

We live in a culture that has no sure foundation for marriage and family. The book of Ruth can help us examine the contemporary relational chaos, the nature of marriage and the ways of God. It is not a story of triumphant romance, rather a story of redemption and discovery of God's unexpected gifts. Singleness, widowhood, childlessness, and other disappointments are clearly portrayed. Naomi in particular does not get the life she wished for and yet in the end her gratefulness is unmistakable.

For more background reading consider the sermon at this web address:
http://www.pbc.org/system/message_files/7622/4585.pdf

Discussion Questions:

1. Ruth and Boaz each suffered the loss of a marriage and they didn't expect be given to one another. How might the determination to 'fall in love with your soul-mate' (forged by popular romantic stories) lead us astray?
2. The wider community of Bethlehem was blessed by the marriage of Ruth and Boaz. Why is this important?
3. What element of the modern confusion surrounding marriage concerns you the most?