

May 31, 2007

WFMCC Weekly

The Romance of Ruth & Naomi



"Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die- there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"

Ruth 1:16-17



Dear Friends,

The words above are spoken by Ruth, a Moabite woman, to her mother-in-law, Naomi, an Israelite. You may have heard them before, since this scripture passage is one that is frequently used at weddings. Whenever I hear this passage at a marriage ceremony, I often wonder, "how many people who are hearing these words today know that they were spoken from one woman to another?"

This Sunday we will continue our "Summer Cinema Sermon Series" with the story of Ruth and Naomi. While the romance between these two women may or may not constitute what we think of as a romantic relationship today, it is nonetheless a beautiful story of absolute devotion and survival against insurmountable odds. And unlike our story last week about Jonathan and David, this time around we will learn about a very happy ending for all those involved.

Perhaps most importantly, Ruth and Naomi have so much to teach us about creating families for ourselves in unconventional and courageous ways. I have been reminded this week of how important it is for us to honor the ways we bring "chosen family" into our lives. Ruth and Naomi will help us to honor those ways this Sunday as we learn about how they stepped outside of cultural norms, and even the law, to create love, security and life-giving relationships for themselves.

Come to church this Sunday and bring a friend! By Faith will be playing, and we will have a great time of worship and celebrating *all* of who God created our family to be.

Many blessings,
Lea

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1. Summer Cinema Sermon Series Continues

As we look ahead to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender film series the church will be hosting in August for Pride Week, we will also be exploring a different kind of "cinema" in sermons throughout the summer. What kind of movies do you like best during the summer? Romances? Superhero flicks? Blockbusters? Did you know you can find all three in the Bible?



From May 27 - August 26 the sermons on Sunday mornings will highlight some of the great romances and superheroes of the Bible, plus that great biblical blockbuster, the Book of Revelation. This Sunday will be all about Ruth and Naomi (see above), and on June 10th we will move on to the stories of Jesus and Mary Magdalene and Jesus and John, the beloved disciple.

2. Only You Can Prevent Summertime Sag!

Summer is a great time for having fun in the sun, but during the summer months please remember that WFMCC never goes on vacation. We still need you to keep our ministries going strong. If you are out of town on vacation, please remember us in your prayers...and when you are in town, come to church and receive the rest and renewal your spirit will receive in worship. It takes all of us to prevent "summertime sag!"

3. Parking at WFMCC

On Sunday mornings, please leave the spaces in front of the church building open for those with mobility issues and our first-time visitors. Thank you!

4. Upcoming Membership Class

The next class for those who would like to become members of Wichita Falls MCC, or for those who are interested in learning more about

membership, will be held on Sunday, June 24th at 1 p.m. Please let Lea know if you would like to attend.

5. Multimedia Update

Thanks to everyone's tremendous generosity during our recent revival, we now have all the funds we need to purchase and install our first multimedia system!

The Board of Trustees has set a goal of having the system up and running by the week of August 13th - just in time for our Pride Week and film festival. Please keep this goal in your prayers as we work to take this next exciting step for our congregation.

6. 10-4-20 Change Drive Continues

Between now and the end of 2007, we are collecting loose change as a fundraiser for the church. Our goal is to receive 10 gallons of change for the next 20 years at WFMCC. There are two five-gallon containers at the back of the church where you can put your change, and cups are available that are labeled 10-4-20 to collect your coins at home or in your car or at work. Together we can make it all the way to 10 gallons by December 31st!

7. Thank You from Lea

Many, many thanks to everyone for the \$100 gift card to Mardel's bookstore you gave me for my birthday last weekend. As you all know, a pastor can never have too many books. I will be putting your gift to good use for books I need for future sermons and classes. Thank you so much!

8. Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests

Thanksgivings for family and God's grace...for Miranda and a healthy baby girl!...**Prayer requests** for strength for Glenn and healing for his mother....continued prayers for the family of Kathy Carr following the death of her grandmother...for a new job for Grant...for learning limits and boundaries...for finding the path leading my family to a new home and

life...for Cathi and Deb...for healing for Deon as she recovers from her heart procedure...for healing for Linda...for comfort for Donni following the death of her dog Spur...for healing for Cheryl...for healing for Heston.

Wichita Falls MCC

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