

Sermon Notes

Ruth 3:1-18 | Written by Rev. Dr. Clay Brown

The focus on God’s kindness, from the Hebrew word *hesed*, continues in Ruth chapter three. Only now it does so in unanticipated ways. Naomi is on the way toward recovery from bitterness, but she’s not quite there yet, as we’ll see in this next phase of the story: Naomi plans, Ruth adapts, and Boaz responds. All brought together by a gracious God, who specializes in taking the fallible plans of flawed humans and turning out His best from them.

1. We support marriages, and we especially support the weddings that start the marriages. Clay shows some photos from his and Cathy’s wedding in 1980. What are differences between weddings “back in the day” and weddings today? How does MDPC support marriages and the weddings that get them started?
2. The romantic, celebratory view of marriages and weddings lauded in the previous question is not at the forefront of Ruth chapter 3. What does Clay say is there instead? How does this realization shape what happens in the rest of the chapter?
3. In Ruth 3:1-6, Naomi concocts a plan for Ruth’s life and shares it with her. What is noteworthy about this plan? What might be lacking in the plan? How and why are there ambiguities in how the plan is communicated?
4. In Ruth 3:7-15, Ruth goes to carry out Naomi’s plan, but things change as the plan goes into action. Ruth goes off script and adapts the strategy on the spot. What does she say? What ancient Hebrew practice does Ruth count on? What does Ruth’s proposal mean for her and for Boaz?
5. Also in Ruth 3:7-15, Boaz responds to the plan as adapted by Ruth. How does his response reflect God’s kindness and faithfulness? What touches does Boaz add to the amended plan? What consideration does Boaz show to both Ruth and Naomi?
6. In Ruth 3:16-18, Ruth returns home and reports to Naomi. How does Ruth communicate Boaz’s response? What is Naomi’s counsel?
7. To sum up, reflect upon and talk about the comment below from Old Testament scholar Iain Duguid that Clay quotes at sermon’s end:

“The story of Boaz and Ruth is not really a love story at all, at least not in the modern sense. It’s not a story about boy meets girl, in which both are physically attracted to one another and the rest is a history of passionate kisses and life viewed through a romantic haze... The real love story is behind the scenes. It is the love of God for His straying sheep. It is the love that prevented Him from ending the world when Adam and Eve first sinned. It is the love that chose and called Abraham and then persisted in pursuing his rebellious offspring. It is the love that would not let them go...”

“This love took its fullest shape in the coming of Jesus Christ. His love for us took Him much further than a grain pile at midnight. It caused Him to leave the glories of heaven and come down and live as an ordinary worker... This same love of God took Jesus all the way to the cross. There, in the midst of a darkness far deeper than any ordinary midnight, He offered Himself up for the sins of His people... Why? Is it because we are such wonderful people and we thoroughly deserve it? Certainly not! It is because God was so committed to saving sinners like us, and this was the only way it could be done.”

Iain M. Duguid, *Reformed Expository Commentary: Esther and Ruth*, 177-179.

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Financial Update	as of Sep 14, 2025
2025 Annual Budget	\$ 14,203,292
Actual Income to Date	8,371,210
Needed to Meet 2025 Budget	5,832,082

Births and Deaths
David McBrayer passed away Sep 4.
More information at memorials.mdpc.org.



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

A Sacred Journey with Your Child
Sun, Sep 28 | 12:30-2:30pm
Following their experience in Faith Walk, some children may feel prepared to take the next step in their faith journey through Baptism or First Communion. Learn more at faithwalk.mdpc.org.
Children will have the opportunity to celebrate First Communion on Sun, Oct 5 at the 9:45 or 11:15 service.

Marriage Retreat
Sat-Sun, Oct 4-5 | Noon-Noon
Couples, pack your bags: we’re headed back to Moody Gardens in Galveston! It’s a weekend full of teaching, rest, and reconnection with each other and with God. For more details and to register, visit marriageretreat.mdpc.org.

All Church Lunch
Sun, Oct 5 | 11am-1pm
Join your church family for lunch on the first Sunday of each month! Menu and pricing at acl.mdpc.org.

Lunch & Learn
Sun, Oct 5 | 12:30-1:30pm
Come learn about Stephen Ministry and how to potentially become a Stephen Minister. There’s no obligation, just an opportunity to hear about this special ministry from current Stephen Ministers. Learn more at lunchandlearn.mdpc.org.

To view all events, visit events.mdpc.org.

The Well Women’s Speaker Series
Thu, Oct 16 | 6-8pm
Speakers Gleide Avila, Abby Johnson, and Sharon Johnson will talk about God’s protective goodness as He gathered them *Under His Wings*. Learn more and RSVP at thewell.mdpc.org.

Preschool Bubble Day
Sat, Oct 18 | 10-11:30am
Master Bubble Wranglers from Texas Bubbles will amaze us with giant bubbles and bubble tricks! Must be accompanied by a parent. Sign up at kids.mdpc.org.

Senior Adult Fellowship Lunch
Mon, Oct 20 | 11am-1pm
Connect and enjoy Christian fellowship at our monthly lunch. No reservations required! Order your food in MDPC Café and bring to our group’s tables in Fellowship Hall. Learn more at seniors.mdpc.org.

New Women’s Bible Study
Thu, Oct 23-Nov 20 | 11:45am-1pm
Grab your Bible, your lunch, and your brave heart—because we’re diving into five powerful stories of courage and faithful living! Free childcare available. Learn more and sign up: women.mdpc.org



Give Online
give.mdpc.org



MDPC Children's Choir

Wednesdays
4:30-5:30pm | Choir Room
Elementary students, it's time to sing! Rehearsals have begun, with opportunities throughout the year to sing in worship. Come join us!
childrenschoir.mdpc.org



HOT TOPICS

Keeping Kids Safe in this Digital Age
In this installment of *Hot Topics: What's Impacting Our Live in 2025*, our friends at Street Grace discuss how to recognize the various kinds of online predators and how to work with our kids (both girls and boys) to protect them.
Thu, Sep 25 | 6:30-8pm
Bring a friend to this free event.





8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship		Marcus Vajdos
*Worship Songs	O Worship the King Come, Thou Fount	
*Confession & Assurance Prayers of the People		Dan Aikins
Worship Song	Savior, Like a Shepherd	

HEARING THE WORD

Message	The Gospel in Ruth: Uncovering & Recovery Ruth 3:1-18 (NLT)	Clay Brown
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RESPONDING

Song of Response	Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me
Offertory	Great Are You, Lord

SENDING

*Doxology	OLD 100TH
*Benediction	Clay Brown

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9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship		Meliza Gómez
*Worship Songs	Glorious Day What a Beautiful Name	
*Confession & Assurance Prayers of the People		Christyn Knoop
*Worship Song	Abide	

HEARING THE WORD

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RESPONDING

Song of Response	Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me
Offertory	Great Are You, Lord

SENDING

*Doxology	OLD 100TH
*Benediction	Clay Brown

Musicians: Asher Pudlo, drums; Chris Parrot, guitar; JJ Blanco, keys; Uvaldo Callejas, bass;
Angel Uribe & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

*Please stand, if comfortable.

As you enter worship, we kindly ask that you silence your cell phones.

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude	Contrapunctus No. 1	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Call to Worship		Marcus Vajdos
Choral Introit	One Faith, One Hope, One Lord	Craig Courtney (b. 1954)
*Hymn of Praise	Called as Partners in Christ's Service	Vs. 1, 3, 4 #343 BEECHER
*Confession and Assurance of Pardon		Dan Aikins
*Affirmation of Faith from The Apostles' Creed		
*Congregational Response	Glory Be to the Father	#579 GLORIA PATRI

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation	We Believe	Dan Forrest (b. 1978)
Message	The Gospel in Ruth: Uncovering & Recovery Ruth 3:1-18 (NLT)	Clay Brown

RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response	How Great Thou Art	Vs. 1, 4 #467 O STORE GUD
Prayers of the People The Lord's Prayer		Dan Aikins
Offertory	Trinity Psalms	Z. Randall Stroope (b. 1953)

SENDING

*Doxology	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow	#592 OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Clay Brown
Postlude	Chaconne	Louis Couperin (1626-1661)

Musicians: John Parker, Chris Boulais, trumpet; Deborah Harvey, French horn;
Rick White, trombone; Victor Gomez, tuba; Julio Sanchez, percussion | Sanctuary Choir
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director | Kathryn White, Organist



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Couples, pack your bags: we're headed back to Moody Gardens in Galveston! It's a weekend full of teaching, rest, and reconnection with each other and with God.

For more details and to register:
marriageretreat.mdpc.org



CURIOUS ABOUT MDPC?

Learn what we believe, meet others, and see if this might be your church home. No pressure, just connection!

Fri evening, Sep 26 • 6-8:30pm
Sat morning, Sep 27 • 8-11:30am
newmembers.mdpc.org



NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Outreach Sunday Next Weekend, Sep 28

Join us in worshipping alongside many of our mission partners at the 9:45 and 11:15 services. Outreach Sunday is a special opportunity to meet and hear from the men and women serving on the front lines of ministry.

Would you like to get in touch with one of our Pastors? Feel free to reach out! Visit staff.mdpc.org for contact information and ministry areas.