

CHRISTMAS 2020 SURPRISES PART I DECEMBER 12-13, 2020

INTRODUCTION

- Some of us love surprises and some of us hate them.
- Every day we face the possibility of being surprised. Life is full of surprises.
- God's ways are often surprises, because His ways are not our ways.
- No time of the year stands out for surprises like Christmas.
- The whole Christmas story was a surprise.
- Isaiah 64:3, "When you performed awesome deeds that took us by surprise, you came down, and the mountains trembled..."

I. THE STORY OF RUTH

- The book of Ruth is a full of surprises, including a huge Christmas surprise.
- Famine in land and a family with two boys made a decision to leave Israel for Moab.
- The decision lacked faith.
- The two boys marry Moabite women.
- Elimelech dies and then both sons die.
- Naomi decides to move home to Bethlehem.
- Ruth goes with her – Ruth 1:16
- Story about loss. But God surprised her because of the Moabite woman's faith – Ruth.

II. THE SURPRISE

- This didn't look like a surprise for Ruth.

- She did the thing she had to do, go to work in the field and beg.
- Ruth 2:3 – Ruth runs into Boaz who is related to Naomi's late husband Elimelech.
- She finds favor with him - verse 2:6-13.
- Verse 3:1-5 - Naomi sets up a bride making a proposal to a kinsman redeemer.
- Verse 3:8-11 - The surprise!
- Boaz takes care of the details and Ruth becomes his wife.
- 4:1-6 - You get Ruth with the land and the other relative bowed out.
- Boaz took on the land and with it the family.
- Ruth was a Moabite, a foreigner, a non-Jew.

III. THE GOD OF SURPRISES

- God is our redeemer and He surprises us at His willingness to redeem everything!
- 4:16-17 - Boaz was David's great grandfather.
- Boaz's mother was Rahab the harlot. Her son, Boaz was compassionate and godly.
- David's great, great, great Grandmother was a harlot.
- And surprise - Jesus was born out of the lineage of David in Bethlehem, the city of David.

CLOSE

- Matthew 1: Christmas story begins with surprise of Rahab and then Obed, then David, then Bethlehem and Jesus waiting to be born in their family line.
- Loss does not have to define your story.