

Rough copy of sermon - Ruth 3; Trinity Baptist Church, Pastor Lee Boehm, July 23, 2023.

Today's Bible passage, Ruth chapter 3, centers around a marriage proposal.

今天的經文，路得記三章，圍繞著一場求婚展開。

It is a very strange marriage proposal, at least in our culture.

這是一個不同尋常的求婚，起碼在我們的文化裡。

I certainly don't recommend to any of our single people that they would sneak into someone's room at night and uncover their feet!

我絕對不推薦任何單身人士夜裡偷偷流進別人的臥室，還把鞋脫了。

I don't think that will be a good foundation for a happy marriage.

我不覺得這將是一段幸福婚姻的開端。

But we must admit that methods of proposing marriage vary greatly from culture to culture, and that some methods seem very strange.

但我們必須承認求婚方式在不同文化中有不同的進行方式，而其中確實有很多方式有些奇怪。

There was a time in our culture when it was appropriate to propose marriage by a written letter, especially when great distances separated the couple involved.

曾有一個時代，我們的文化里合適的求婚方式是寫一封信，尤其是當男女雙方之間相隔甚遠。

More recently, some have proposed marriage by a quick text message.

而最近，有些人會通過一條簡短的訊息去求婚。

I don't recommend either of these methods.

這兩種方法我都不推薦。

Some people are very public about their marriage proposals, while some are very private.

有些人會在公開場合求婚，有些人則是私下求婚。

I'm sure you've heard of people proposing marriage on the giant screen during a sporting match.

我相信你一定聽過那些在比賽現場的大屏幕上求婚的人。

One friend of mine, a pastor, proposed marriage to his girlfriend during a sermon.

我的一位朋友，一位牧師，在講道的時候向他的女友求婚了。

It was a long, poetic, perhaps theological, marriage proposal.

那是一場悠長，富有詩意，甚至有些神學意味的求婚。

His girlfriend apparently couldn't help herself -- and roared with laughter through the entire, long-winded, very public proposal.

他的女友據說完全忍不住 — 她在整個求婚過程週不斷爆笑出聲。

But she did say yes, and now, some 30 years later, they are still married.

但是她同意了，而三十年後的現在，他們還在一起。

On the other hand, I was very private about proposing to Sandra.

相反的，我向Sandra求婚的經歷十分私密。

I don't think I told anyone that I was going to propose, and I certainly didn't tell anyone when and where I would do so.

我沒向任何人說我要求婚的事，也並沒有說要在什麼時間地點求婚。

I arranged a special dinner date for just the two of us at the restaurant at the top of Grouse Mountain.

我計劃了一個特殊的約會，就我們兩個人在松雞山頂的餐館裡。

I knew that she wouldn't be able to get away very quickly!

我知道這樣的話她就沒辦法逃跑了！

But then the previous Sunday someone almost ruined the surprise.

但是那之前的週日險些毀了這個驚喜。

Another couple in Sandra's church got engaged at the very same location, just a week before I was going to propose.

Sandra教會的另一對情侶在同一個場合訂婚了。

But I went ahead with the plan.

但我還是把計劃進行下去了。

Sandra later told me when she heard about this other couple, she had a thought that maybe I would also propose on Grouse Mountain, but she dismissed it, because I take forever to make important decisions.

Sandra後來跟我說當她聽到這另一對情侶的故事的時候，她想到了我說不定也會在松雞山求婚，但是她隨即將這個想法揮之而去，因為我做決定總是要花很久。

So after dinner we went out to a private spot on the snow.

所以在晚飯後，我們在雪地裡去了一個人跡罕至的地方。

While we embraced I asked her to put her hand in my coat pocket.

當我們擁抱的時候我讓她把手放進我的大衣口袋。

She did so, and discovered a ring.

她照做了，然後找到了一枚戒指。

My memory is kind of a blur after that, but I do remember that she said "yes"!

那之後，我的記憶基本上就模糊了，但是我記得她說了“我接受！”

And, by the way, we just celebrated our 31st wedding anniversary this past Tuesday. So I guess my proposal method was OK.

順帶一提，我們上週二剛慶祝了我們的第三十一個婚禮紀念日。所以說我的求婚應該還好吧。

Cultural practices around proposals, engagements, and even marriage ceremonies, often do not translate well into other cultures.

不同文化里圍繞求婚，訂婚，甚至是婚禮的禮儀都大有不同，且常常很難在別的文化里被接受。

Similarly, it is often difficult to translate certain words into just a single word in another language.

正如此類，在不同語言之間翻譯的時候，有些詞很難用一個單詞去平替。

Many of you will know this fact better than I do, because you are bilingual, or even multilingual.

你們之中肯定比我還要了解這個事實，因為這裡有很多會雙語甚至多語種的人。

One word may carry a wide variety of meanings, which do not correspond to any single word in another language.

一個詞可以背負許多層意義，而這並不能準確無誤的翻譯到另一種語言裡。

The same is true of many words in the original Biblical languages such as Hebrew and Greek. 這個現象也在許多聖經原文裡出現，比如希伯來語和希臘語。

Some Biblical words need several English words to express their full meaning.

有些聖經詞語需要數個英文詞語才能被徹底表達。

One of those words is perhaps the most important word in the book we're looking at today.

這之中有一個詞可能是我們今天這段經文中最重要的詞語。

It is the Hebrew word "hesed", and it is featured at crucial points in the book of Ruth.

這個詞是希伯來語的“hesed”，它在路得記中的幾個重要的時間點裡出現。

It is translated throughout the Bible by using several different English words.

在聖經中，這個詞被翻譯成了數個不同的英文詞語。

You will recall the line in Psalm 23, verse 6, which in the New International Version says, “surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life”.

在詩篇23篇六節裡，英文的NIV如是說：“你的恩惠和愛必伴隨我一生，”

The word “love” in this translation is “hesed” in Hebrew.

這裡的“慈愛”就是希伯來語的“hesed”。

But you may be aware that other translations of this same verse say “goodness and mercy will follow me”.

但你應該會注意到在別的譯本裡，同樣的經文說：“你的恩惠和憐憫伴隨我一生。”Hesed can mean love or mercy.

“Hesed” 可以是慈愛，也可以是憐憫。

When I was a child, we used to sing a line from Psalm 63:3, which said “Thy lovingkindness is better than life”.

當我還是孩子的時候，我們曾經會唱詩篇63篇3節：“你的比生命更寶貴。”

“Loving kindness” is also translation of “hesed”.

Last Sunday we sang the most repeated line in the entire book of Psalms, “His love endures forever”.

上個週日，我們唱了整個詩篇被重複次數最多的句子：“祂的慈愛永遠長存！”

God’s enduring love is “hesed”. Hesed is not just any kind of love – it is loyal, faithful, enduring love.

神長存的愛也是“hesed”。“Hesed”不僅是任何層次的愛，它是忠誠，信實，堅韌的愛。

It is not merely a feeling; “hesed love” is active, committed love.

它不僅是一種感情；“hesed”的愛是鮮活的，需要付出的。

The word “hesed” is used most often to refer to God’s love to people, as he keeps a covenant with them. “Hesed” is covenant-keeping love.

“Hesed”這個詞最常被用來代指神對人的愛，因為祂與人們立了約。“Hesed”就是堅守盟約的愛。

But to understand “hesed”, we need to understand the book of Ruth.

但是為了能夠理解“hesed”，我們需要理解路得記。

The book of Ruth is the story of God’s “hesed love” in the lives of real people.

路得記就是神的“hesed”的愛在人們真實的生活中存在的故事。

Although Ruth is probably the greatest human hero (or heroine) in this story, the story is really about Naomi, and how her life is transformed by God’s “hesed love”.

雖然路得可能是故事裡人類歷史上最偉大的英雄，但是這個故事卻是真正關於拿娥米和她受神的“hesed”的愛影響改變人生的故事。

In the first chapter, Naomi describes herself as “empty” (1:9).

在第一章裡，拿娥米說自己是“雙手空空的”（1:9）。

Her husband has died, her sons have died, and she is an exile in enemy territory.

她的丈夫和兒子們都死了，她自己也在敵國領土裡流亡。

She has nothing. But that’s not quite true. God hasn’t given up on Naomi.

她貌似什麼都沒有，但這是不準確的。神沒有放棄拿娥米。

And Naomi still has the tenaciously loyal love, the hesed love, of her daughter-in-law Ruth.

拿娥米也還有著她忠誠的，富有“hesed”的愛的兒媳婦路得。

And through the loyal hesed love of Ruth, and later of Boaz, Naomi is brought from being “empty” in chapter 1, to “not empty” in today’s passage, to “full” at the end of the book. 而也是透過路得和波阿斯忠誠和“hesed”的愛，拿娥米從第一章的“雙手空空”開始，到今天的經文的“不要空手”，再到路得記終章的“滿足”。

The book of Ruth tells the story of how God’s hesed love redeems Naomi, but it also tells the story of how God uses human agents as instruments of his hesed love.

路得記講述了神的“hesed”的愛是如何贖回拿娥米的，但是它也同時講述了神是如何使用人類作為祂“hesed”的愛的載體。

In fact, the narrator of the book of Ruth never once mentions God’s activity.

事實上，路得記的敘事者從來沒有提到過神的所作所為。

The narrator only mentions the activity of the human characters.

敘事者僅僅是講述了人們的所作所為。

However, God’s activity is all over this book.

但是，整篇路得記上下均能看見神的行動軌跡。

He is working in the background, using the hesed love of human characters to transform each other’s lives.

祂在地下工作，使用人和人之間的“hesed”的愛去改變互相的人生。

In fact, each one of us here is a beneficiary of the hesed love shown by Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz, for in the book’s conclusion we learn that the actions of these 3 characters leads eventually to Jesus Christ entering our world.

在這裡的每一個人都是路得，拿娥米，和波阿斯的“hesed”的愛的受益者，因為在這篇聖經的結尾，我們了解到了這三位的行動是如何將耶穌帶到我們世界上的。

God’s hesed love, shown by everyday people, transforms lives, and changes the world.

神的“hesed”的愛透過平常人的彰顯，改變了人的一生和這個世界的命運。

I believe that the turning point in this story, in Naomi’s story, is found in last week’s chapter, chapter 2, verse 20.

我相信拿娥米的故事的轉折點就發生在上週的章節裡，第2章20節。

After Ruth shows so much hesed love for Naomi;

在路得向拿娥米表達了她的“hesed”的愛之後；

after Ruth followed Naomi from Moab to Bethlehem;

在路得跟隨拿娥米到了伯利恆之後；

after Ruth pledged her undying commitment to Naomi, saying: “where you go I will go...where you die, I will die...” (1:16-17);

在路得向拿娥米傳遞了心意，說到：“你往哪裏去，我也往哪裏去... 你死在哪裏，我也死在哪裏 “（第1章16-17節）之後；

after Ruth took initiative to keep Naomi from starvation by going out to glean for food;

在路得主動地去幫拿娥米撿谷物之後；

after Boaz protected Ruth, blessed her, and made sure that she collected a very generous amount of grain;

在波阿斯宣誓保護路得，祝福了她，且保證了她能收集很多的食物之後；

after all these acts of hesed love, Naomi’s heart finally re-awakens from her bitter state.

在如此多“hesed”的愛的行為之後，神透過路得和波阿斯所彰顯的“hesed”的愛，終於將拿娥米帶出了她悲痛的心境。

God’s hesed love, shown by Ruth and Boaz, finally melts her frozen heart.

神透過路得和波阿斯所彰顯的“hesed”的愛，終於融化了她冰封的心。

So now, in chapter 3, we see Naomi step up and show hesed love to Ruth.

所以現在，在第3章裡，我們見證了拿娥米是如何向路得表示“hesed”的愛。

In verse 1, Naomi finally takes initiative, and sets in motion a plan for Ruth's future.

在第1節裡，拿娥米終於主動了起來，幫路得設計的她的未來。

Naomi acts out of loving concern for Ruth's long-term well-being.

拿娥米，出於對路得的長久未來的考慮，行動了起來。

Naomi says “My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for”.

拿娥米說：“女兒啊，我不該為你找個歸宿，使你享福嗎？”

Why does she say this? Ruth already has a home with Naomi.

她為什麼要這麼說？路得已經和拿娥米有一個家了。

But Naomi, being older, realizes that she will likely die long before Ruth does, in which case Ruth will be left alone as a foreign widow, without land, without income, and without family.

但是拿娥米清楚，作為年長的和更可能會先路得一步離開人世的人，當那發生的時候，會將路得作為一個外地的寡婦在一個沒有土地，收入，和家庭的地方拋棄。

How can Naomi show hesed love to Ruth? What does she have to offer?

拿娥米要如何向路得展示“hesed”的愛呢？她能給予什麼呢？

She is destitute herself. She could sell her land, but how long would that money last?

她自己也並不富裕。她可以賣掉她的土地，但是那筆錢又能撐得了多久呢？

What Naomi does have to offer is experience and cultural awareness.

拿娥米可以提供的是經驗和文化理解。

Naomi explains to Ruth how to find a good husband in that cultural situation.

拿娥米向路得解釋了要如何在這個文化背景下找到一個好丈夫。

To us it is a very strange method.

對我們而言，這是一個很奇怪的方法。

As I said earlier, I do not recommend to anyone that they sneak into someone's room at night and uncover their feet!

就像我先前所說的，我不推薦任何人夜裡脫了鞋偷偷流進別人的臥室。

But in that culture it was both appropriate and effective.

但是在那個文化背景下，這麼做十分地合適且有效。

Naomi uses her cultural understanding to help Ruth find a good husband, so that Ruth can become a member of that society, and so that Ruth will find a life-long home where she will be loved and provided for, even after Naomi herself passes away.

拿娥米利用了她對文化的理解來幫助路得找到了一個好丈夫，好讓路得成為那個社會的一份子，好讓路得能找到一個一輩子愛她和供應她的家，就算拿娥米自己去世也一樣。

Naomi is has been awakened by God's hesed love, shown to her by Ruth and Boaz, and now she takes initiative.

透過路得和波阿斯，拿娥米被神的“hesed”的愛喚醒，而現在她也主動了起來。

Naomi herself now becomes an agent of God's hesed love, and extends that love to Ruth.

拿娥米如今成為了神的“hesed”的愛的使者，並且將其傳達給了路得。

How will Ruth respond to such odd advice? Will she trust Naomi with this strange plan?

路得會如何回應這奇怪的建議呢？她會相信拿娥米這奇怪的計劃嗎？

Ruth once again responds with hesed love.

路得再一次以“hesed”的愛回應了。

Ruth's hesed love is marked by loyalty and trust towards Naomi.

路得的“hesed”的愛最大的特徵就是對拿娥米的忠誠和信任。

And it is a bold love. Ruth steps out courageously, taking a great risk.

這也是勇敢的愛。路得冒著很大的風險走出了這一步。

Ruth could have dismissed Naomi's advice as strange and unfitting for herself.

路得當時有選擇忽視拿娥米的建議，因為這與她實在不符。

She could have gone about things her own way.

她有選擇自己去走自己的路。

She might have tried to act seductively.

她可能會去誘惑別人。

But instead she trusts Naomi, and embarks on what must have seemed to be a very risky plan.

但是她卻相信了拿娥米，並且執行了這一件風險極大的計劃。

At that time in history, it must have seem very dangerous for a woman to set out at night to visit the camp of a man, alone.

在那個歷史時代，一個女子獨自在夜裡去訪問一個男子的帳篷是很危險的事。

Even if Boaz acted properly, he might reject Ruth's proposal and turn her away.

就算波阿斯沒有不敬之舉，他仍然可能會拒絕路得的求婚，將她趕走。

But Ruth was tenaciously loyal to Naomi, and she trusted her advice.

但是路得對拿娥米百般信任，也採納了她的建議。

It was not only the night-time visit that was risky.

整件事不光是夜裡探訪那部分是有風險的。

It took great courage to make this particular proposal of marriage, and Ruth was very bold about how she expressed it.

以這種方式求婚本身就需要極大的勇氣，而路得也非常直接的表達了她的想法。

We read that "In the middle of the night" (vv.8) Boaz was startled, and awoke, and found Ruth lying there.

我們讀到第8節：“到了半夜”，波阿斯驚醒過來，看見路得躺在那裡。

What would Ruth say? Ruth says something that is very bold.

路得會說什麼呢？她說了很直接很勇敢的一句話。

She says, "spread the corner of your garment over me" (v9).

她說了：“請你用你衣服的邊來遮蓋你的使女”（第9節）

The word "corner" here is actually the same Hebrew word translated as "wings" in chapter 2, verse 12.

這裡的“邊”其實和第2章第12節的“翅膀”是同一個希伯來語的詞彙。

In that verse, Boaz had blessed Ruth, saying "May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge".

在那一段經文中，波阿斯祝福了路得，說：“願耶和華照你所行的報償你。你來投靠在耶和華—以色列 神的翅膀下，願你滿得他的報償。”

This blessing was like a prayer.

這個祝福就像是一段祈禱一樣。

Boaz had in effect prayed that God would protect Ruth under his wings.

波阿斯事實上是向神祈禱了，求神保護路得於祂的羽翼之下。

Now Ruth turns Boaz's own words back to him, and challenges him to be the answer to his own prayer.

而現在路得將波阿斯的話還給了他，挑戰他來回應他自己的禱告。

Ruth says, in effect, “cover me with your own wings. Be the agent of God’s hesed love to me. You prayed that God would protect me and care for me. So protect me and care for me yourself.”

路得事實上說的就是：“用你的羽翼來遮蓋我，作為神”hesed“的愛的使者來愛我。你向神祈禱，為了保護和照顧我。那麼你自己來保護和照顧我吧。”

Ruth’s hesed love is courageous.

路得的“hesed”的愛是富有勇氣的。

She trusts Naomi’s plan, and she trusted that God would somehow take care of her.

她相信拿娥米的計畫，正如她相信神會看護她。

And so she becomes an agent of God’s hesed love by acting boldly, trusting the good advice springing from Naomi’s hesed love.

所以透過她勇敢直接的行動，她也成為了神的“hesed”的愛的使者，因著自拿娥米的“hesed”的愛而來的好建議。

We might expect Boaz to be put off by Ruth’s boldness.

我們可能覺得波阿斯會被路得的直接性勸退。

We might expect him to say “who do you think you are?”

我們可能覺得他會說：“你覺得你是誰啊？”

She is, after all, a woman of the lowest social standing, proposing marriage to a wealthy and influential man.

歸根究底，她是一個處在最低階層的女人，正在向一個滿有財富和影響力的男人求婚。

At best, we would expect him to politely send her home.

最好的期望下，我們會覺得波阿斯將禮貌的將路得送回家。

But Boaz recognizes something special in Ruth.

但是波阿斯在路得身上認出了特殊的東西。

In verse 10 he says that “this kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier”.

在第10節中，他說到：“你後來的忠誠比先前的更美。”

The word kindness here is “hesed”.

這裡的“忠誠”也是從“hesed”翻譯而來的。

Boaz sees that Ruth acts boldly because of hesed love.

波阿斯看見了路得是如何透過她的“hesed”的愛而去直接的行動的。

In fact, he sees it as an even greater expression of hesed than when she followed Naomi all the way from Moab to Bethlehem.

事實上，他將這看作比路得跟隨拿娥米前來伯利恆更為明確的“hesed”的彰顯。

He recognizes that Ruth could have sought other eligible men for marriage besides him.

他意識到路得可以遠在認識他之前和別的合適的男人結婚。

He realizes that Ruth has proposed to him because he is Naomi’s guardian redeemer.

他意識到路得之所以向他求婚是因為他是拿娥米的救贖者。

He can redeem Naomi’s land, and more importantly, he can redeem Naomi’s family line.

他可以贖回拿娥米的土地，而且更重要的是，她可以贖回拿娥米的家族。

He sees that Ruth’s proposal is intended to bless Naomi, and redeem her family.

他將路得的求婚看作對拿娥米的祝福，為了贖回她的家庭。

Boaz, perhaps to everyone else’s surprise, accepts Ruth’s bold marriage proposal.

波阿斯，違背著眾人的期望，接受了路得直接的求婚。

And here’s why: In verse 11, he affirms, along with the whole town, that Ruth is a woman of “noble character”.

理由在這裡：在第11節，他與整個村莊重申，路得是一個“賢德的女子。”

As Pastor Silas pointed out last Sunday, this is the same term used to describe the woman of Proverbs 31.

正如Silas牧師上週指出的，這個詞語也形容了箴言31章的女子。

Boaz has seen Ruth's repeated acts of hesed love, and has noticed that she is a woman with "noble character".

波阿斯已經見證了路得數次出於“hesed”的愛的行為，並且注意到了她賢德的特質。

So now Boaz responds to Ruth's hesed love with his own expression of hesed love.

所以如今波阿斯用他自己的“hesed”的愛回應了路得的“hesed”的愛。

Boaz shows God's hesed love by acting with integrity and generosity.

波阿斯透過公正和慷慨的行為彰顯了神的“hesed”的愛。

Although he is clearly a man of high standing, he is humble, in fact he seems to think that there are other, more eligible, potential husbands available for Ruth.

雖然他是一個地位很高的男人，但是他很謙虛，他甚至認為除自己之外有很多別的合適的人可以當路得的丈夫。

Though Boaz is wealthy and influential, he is humble, and he blesses and affirms this poor, foreign widow.

雖然波阿斯富有金錢和影響力，他卻是謙虛的，並且他祝福和肯定了這個貧窮的外地寡婦。

He is not so influenced by his wealth and prestige to not see quality character in someone who ranks far beneath him.

他並沒有被他的財富和名聲影響，從而看不見在他之下的人裡所擁有的特質。

Boaz is a man of integrity.

波阿斯是一個公正的男人。

He could have easily exploited Ruth's vulnerable position when she visited him.

他完全有選擇輕易的利用路得有求於他的弱點去佔她的便宜。

He acted with integrity and purity when no one else was watching.

他在無人在場的時候仍然公正和純潔的行了事。

Boaz makes a promise to Ruth, that he will do all he can to marry her and redeem Naomi's family line.

波阿斯向路得保證，他會盡他所能娶她為妻然後贖回拿娥米的家族。

And as we'll see next week, Boaz keeps his promise.

正如我們下週將會看到的，波阿斯履行了他的諾言。

However, even though he wants to marry Ruth, he shows incredible integrity to submit himself to what is proper, both legally and culturally.

但是，就算他想要娶路得為妻，他還是公正的進行了符合禮儀和法律的九成

He explains to Ruth that someone besides him may have the legal right of first refusal.

他向路得解釋，他身邊的人還是有法律上拒絕婚事的權利。

he is patient enough to await that person's decision and abide by it.

他有足夠的耐心來等待那人的決定。

Can you imagine?

你能想像嗎？

Coming to the decision that you want to marry someone, and then being willing to let them go simply because of a legal requirement?

再決定了要婚娶一個人之後仍然請願放他們走，只因一個法律上的要求？

Boaz is a person of exceptional integrity.

波阿斯是一個異常公正的人。

But Boaz is not uncaring.

但波阿斯並不是一個不關心他人的人。

He does not toss Ruth and Naomi's plight aside because of this legal technicality.

他並沒有因著他法律上要行使的流程而忽略路得和拿娥米的艱難。

He continues to show generous hesed love to Ruth and Naomi whatever the legal outcome.

他仍然向路得和拿娥米表示他的“hesed”的愛，無論法律上的結果如何。

Boaz shows hesed in a very practical way – by not sending Ruth away empty-handed.

波阿斯以一個非常現實的方式去表達他的“hesed”的愛 — 他沒有讓路得空手回家。

Boaz fills Ruth's robe with grain.

波阿斯將路得的袍子盛滿了谷子。

The meaning of this act was not lost on Naomi.

拿娥米理解了這個行為的意義。

She understood what Boaz was saying with this gift.

她明白了波阿斯透過這個禮物想要表達的事物。

This generous gift of grain is a pledge that he will do all he can to fulfill his promise.

這個慷慨的禮物是一個保證，他將盡他所能去履行他的承諾。

He will do all he can as a guardian-redeemer to carry out God's hesed love for them.

他將會盡他所能來成為她們的守護者，救贖者，好來表現神的“hesed”的愛。

He will do all he can to help both Ruth and Naomi have a secure future.

他將盡他所能來幫助路得和拿娥米有一個穩定的未來。

He has noticed the hesed love of Ruth and Naomi.

他注意到了路得和拿娥米的“hesed”的愛。

Now Boaz responds by showing hesed love to them.

而現在波阿斯也透過這“hesed”的愛來回應她們。

Boaz shows this hesed love by acting with integrity and with generosity.

波阿斯透過公正和慷慨的行為來彰顯這個“hesed”的愛。

God is transforming the lives of Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz by his hesed love.

神透過了拿娥米，路得，和波阿斯的人生來表現他的“hesed”的愛。

I'm leaving you with a cliff-hanger!

我要留個悬念了！

Tune in next week, as our guest preacher, Matt Kitchener, brings us the spine-tingling conclusion of this story.

下周，我們的客座牧師Matt Kitchener將會給我們帶來這個故事顫人心弦的結尾。

Of course, you can always read it for yourself.

當然，你也可以在任何時候自己去讀到它。

The book of Ruth is a picture of how God transforms common, everyday lives.

路得記是一幅描繪了神是如何改變普通的人生的畫作。

He redeems us from the most bitter of circumstances.

祂將我們從苦難中贖回。

But he often does so through how we show hesed love to one another.

但祂也常常透過我們互相之間的“hesed”的愛來做到這一點。

The narrator of Ruth never mentions God doing anything!

路得的敘事者從來沒有提到神或者祂所做的任何事。

But God works powerfully through everyday people to show his hesed love to one another.

但是神卻富有力量的透過普通人彼此互相來彰顯祂的“hesed”的愛。

So let's be agents of God's hesed love to one another.

所以就讓我們成為神的“hesed”的愛的使者吧。

Let's take initiative to seek one another's best long-term interests.

讓我們主動地替彼此長遠的未來著想。

Let's have tenacious loyalty.

讓我們擁有頑強的忠誠。

Let's trust those who have shown themselves to be agents of God's love and wisdom.

讓我們信任那些身為神的愛與智慧的使者的人們。

Let's always act with generosity toward others.

讓我們永遠互相包容。

Let's always act with integrity, especially when no one but God is looking.

讓我們永遠公正的行事，尤其是當沒有人而只有神在看著的時候。

And when we know that something is right, that it is what God wants for this time and place, let's act with holy boldness to show hesed love to others.

而且，當我們知道某件事情是正確的，是神想要在這個時間地點看見的時候，讓我們帶著聖潔的勇氣去向彼此表現“hesed”的愛。

For this is the kind of love that Jesus has shown to us.

因為這種愛就是耶穌彰顯給我們的。

He was bold enough, generous enough, tenaciously loyal enough, to lay down his life for us.

祂足夠勇敢，足夠慷慨，足夠頑強的忠心，乃至於為我們放下了自己的生命。

As Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."
(John 15:13).

正如耶穌所說的：“為朋友捨命可以說是人間最偉大的愛了。”

Let us show hesed love to one another, let's put other's interests ahead of our own.

讓我們向彼此傳達“hesed”的愛，將彼此的利益置於自己之上。

As we do so, God will transform us, and those around us, by his hesed love.

當我們如此時，神就會改變我們和我們身邊的人，透過祂的“hesed”的愛。

Amen.

阿門。