



An Undeserved Inheritance

"Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may His name be renowned in Israel." Ruth 4:14 b ESV

Ruth was a foreigner from Moab. She married an Israelite from Bethlehem but he died. Now she was a foreign, widowed woman in a male dominated culture. She had no right to an inheritance. Yet her faithfulness to her widowed mother-in-law was unshaken. God eventually provided a "kinsman redeemer" from her dead husband's family who saw Ruth's faithfulness and took her as his wife. Ruth had a son with this new husband. Happy ending to a sad story? Nope! That was just the beginning...

The real end of the story is that the child of this redeemed woman would be the grandfather of King David who would ultimately be the ancestor of OUR redeemer, Jesus Christ. An ending to a story only God could write.

Jesus came to redeem the unredeemable. Like Ruth, we are all helpless in a foreign land. Our sin leaves us out of the family inheritance. Lonely, gleaning the fields for daily scraps of hope, we can only wait for someone to do our bidding with the Master. Christ redeemed you and you now share in the inheritance of forgiveness and eternal life.

Our Lutheran schools are becoming more and more filled with people who have different stories and journeys than ever before. Some come for the safety, the good education, the smaller class sizes, etc. Yet in their hearts they are wandering with no inheritance to the eternal kingdom.

Christ not only came to redeem you; but He came to redeem all of His children who are foreign to His love. As you walk through your journey keep an eye out for the wandering people for whom Christ died and share the assured inheritance that Christ has redeemed for them.

Discussion Questions-

1. What is it like to visit a foreign place where you do not feel at home?
2. What difference does a good interpreter or a tour guide from that region do for your comfort level?
3. What difference does it make to God that Christ has stepped in for you?
4. Who do you know that is wandering apart from God right now?
5. How might you share the hope of Christ with them?