I want to speak to you today

From Process to Promise

A sermon on the book of Ruth

I have come to declare that even when God seems silent, He is faithfully working behind the scenes to accomplish His purposes in the lives of His people.

Illustration: There are many times that I felt that I let God down. That I have disqualified myself only to find in the passage of time that God has never let go of me. I listed for you in my introduction many instances of God's faithfulness. He has been working in my life from the day that I gave my life to him.

In the book of Ruth the Bible illustrates for us the Process of God to fulfill his Promise to us.

God finds us in the midst of our pain.

1. Pain - God is working through it

God works through loss and hardship - he comes to rescue us!!

Ruth and Naomi in the book of Ruth experience loss and hardship.

Hardship many times comes because of us not following God and is plan. Sometimes hardship comes because we are following God.

Judges 21:25

Ruth 1:1

Ruth 1

Summary

A man named Elimelech moves with his wife, Naomi, and their two sons from Bethlehem to Moab because there is a famine in Israel. Elimelech dies, and later both of his sons die too. Naomi is left with her two Moabite daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah.
Naomi decides to return to Bethlehem. Orpah stays in Moab, but Ruth refuses to leave Naomi. Ruth tells her:
"Where you go, I will go… Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God."
Ruth chooses to stay with Naomi even though she has no idea what the future holds.

2 Corinthians 1:8-10 (NASB)

8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; 9 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; 10 who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us,

We have to trust that God has a plan! Providence is a plan!

2. Providence - God is guiding through it

God guides Ruth and Boaz

Ruth meets Boaz and receives protection and provision.

Ruth 2

Summary

Ruth and Naomi arrive in Bethlehem with very little. Ruth goes into the fields to gather leftover grain so they can have food.
She happens to work in the field of Boaz, a wealthy and respected relative of Naomi's late husband. Boaz notices Ruth and learns about her loyalty to Naomi.
Boaz treats Ruth kindly, protects her, and makes sure she has plenty of grain to take home.
Naomi realizes that Boaz is one of their family's kinsmen-redeemers—a relative who could potentially help restore the family's future.

My favorite verse,

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Providence - "providing for or sustaining and governing the universe by God."

Scripture states in *Proverbs 29:18 (NASB)*

18 Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained,
But happy is he who keeps the law.

Because God is a good father he provides vision.

Ruth 1:6-7 (NASB)

6 Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the land of Moab, for she had heard in the land of Moab that ***the LORD had visited His people in giving them food****. 7 So she departed from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.*

This verse speaks to both Providence and Provision

3. Provision - God is providing through it

God provides a redeemer through Boaz

Boaz becomes Ruth's redeemer.

Ruth 3:1-18; 4:1-12

Summary

Naomi develops a plan for Ruth. She tells Ruth to approach Boaz and ask him to fulfill his responsibility as their kinsman redeemer.
Ruth does exactly that. Boaz is honored by Ruth's request and agrees to help her. However, there is another relative who is actually closer to Naomi's family than Boaz, so Boaz must first give that man the opportunity to act as redeemer.

What is a kinsman redeemer?

Leviticus 25:25 (NASB)

25 ‘If a fellow countryman of yours becomes so poor he has to sell part of his property, then his nearest kinsman is to come and buy back what his relative has sold.

Levirate Marriage

Deuteronomy 25:5-6 (NASB)

5 “When brothers live together and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the deceased shall not be married outside the family to a strange man. Her husband’s brother shall go in to her and take her to himself as wife and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her. 6 It shall be that the firstborn whom she bears shall assume the name of his dead brother, so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel.

2 redeemers

Boaz is a redeemer to Naomi and to Ruth

Jesus is a redeemer to all who will believe

Luke 4:18-19 (NASB)

18 “THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME,
BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR.
HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES,
AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND,
TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED,
19 TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.”

4. Promise - God is fulfilling it

God restores and Naomi and Ruth's family becomes part of the lineage of David.

Ruth 4:13-22

Summary

Boaz meets with the closer relative and explains the situation. The man chooses not to take responsibility for the family property and Ruth, so Boaz becomes the redeemer. Boaz marries Ruth, and they have a son named Obed. Obed becomes the father of Jesse, and Jesse becomes the father of David, Israel's great king.

Matthew 1:5-16 (NASB)

5 Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse.
6 Jesse was the father of David the king.
David was the father of Solomon by Bathsheba who had been the wife of Uriah.
7 Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa.
8 Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah.
9 Uzziah was the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah.
10 Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah.
11 Josiah became the father of Jeconiah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.
12 After the deportation to Babylon: Jeconiah became the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel.
13 Zerubbabel was the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor.

14 Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud.
15 Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob.
16 Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

The book that began with famine, death, grief, and emptiness ends with family, blessing, restoration, and a future.

This is the Gospel!

So how does this apply to us

Because of our **Pain** - Isaiah 53:6 (NASB)

6 All of us like sheep have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way;
But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all
To fall on Him.

Through God's **Providence** -1 Peter 1:20-21 (NASB)

20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you
21 who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

By God's **Provision** - John 3:16 (NASB)

16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

We have a **Promise** - Ephesians 1:7-8 (NASB)

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness
of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight

Romans 6:23 (NASB)

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is
eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

You might be here today because you said you were going to give God another chance. You have felt as if you had done something that caused God to turn away from you. This is not the case. Jesus loves you; he died for you; and because of his death and resurrection you and I can have new life.

Romans 5:19 (NASB)
19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:17 (NASB)
17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.