

The Story of Ruth

God of Promise #2

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The Main Thing: God's promise to Abraham and the people of Israel and to us requires us to overcome our natural fear of immigrants. It requires us to reject nationalism and embrace the kingdom of God.

- God keeps his promises. Everyone is included in the promise that God made to Abraham and that means you.
- The story of the Bible is mostly told from a Jewish man's point of view, but some stories, like the book of Ruth, are stories of women mostly trying to manage to convince the men to do the right thing.
- The story of Ruth describes how a despised foreigner and illegal immigrant manages to overcome the loss of her husband, the depression of her mother in law, poverty and racism in Israel to pass as an Israelite and become the ancestor of David, the future King of Israel.
- God's promise found a heart to rest in and it produced loyalty. The basic meaning of "righteousness" in the Bible is "loyalty."
- God's people can sometimes be underwhelming in their fulfillment of God's commands.
- The legal framework for receiving foreigners is confusing.
- People who see others as fellow human beings and respond with kindness are people "of noble character" (compare Proverbs 31)
- Racism is hard to admit, but affects us deeply.
- "Spitting in the face" of racism is one of the primary purposes of the Book of Ruth. (Deut 25:5-10).