

Problems and Portraits of Grace

Ruth 4

We are going to look specifically at how the LORD took the problem of another man, the problem of race, the problem of a barren woman, and the problem of a world lost in sin and darkness—and just turned them all into beautiful pictures of His overwhelming and overcoming grace.

1. The Problem of Another Man (vvs. 1-11)

2. The Problem of Race (vvs. 5-12)

God created man, and there is but one people: mankind. God did not create different races or ethnicities, He created mankind, and they weren't white, they weren't black either. They were of course Middle Eastern. And when Noah stepped of the ark with his family, they were the only family on earth. So, everything that we see in people, different hues of skin color, different shapes of eyes, different hair—these are all a result of the blood line just getting wider as the human race grew and continues to grow over time. We are all one people under one God and Creator. We all bleed red. We all turn to dust when we are dead.

3. The Problem of a Barren Woman (vvs. 13-17)

4. The Problem of a World lost in Sin and Darkness (vvs. 18-22)

Matthew 22:41-46

No amount of sin, no past no matter how checkered makes anyone disqualified from receiving the grace of God. In fact, we are often handpicked because of it. Most of Jesus' friends were not the desired and popular people of the community, but this disreputables. And there are no bragging rights to Israel or Gentiles for bringing about the birth of Jesus Christ. Gentiles can't claim Jesus as purely Gentile. Jews can't claim Him as purely Jewish. Jesus the Son of God and Savior of all who believe is Himself both Jew and Gentile by His own divine will.