

**I. Introduction**

- A. What if the most scandalous story in Jesus's own family tree isn't a mistake, but God's gigantic clue showing you the way to a major breakthrough in your life?
- B. Actually it's a Grace Breakthrough. Your own personal Grace Breakthrough. An unstoppable grace breakthrough. That's what I'm praying for, for you today.
- C. Today, I'm going to expose a 'family secret' that could shatter a dark but lingering force in your life... that force would be disappointment with God.
- D. I want to shatter once and for all your disappointment with God and unlock a view of your life that changes everything.
  - 1. Today is message number 10 in the book of Ruth.
  - 2. The series is called **Resting in the Love of God**
  - 3. And my talk is called **Your Grace Breakthrough**.
- E. In message number 1, I said Ruth is a fireworks show—slow start, explosive finish. Today, it's the finale. This passage is stunning, and I pray it grips your soul.

**II. Previously in Ruth**

- A. For those just joining us in this series, here's where we are: Ruth, a young widow from the foreign nation of Moab, has made an incredible commitment to show grace toward her hurting and bitter mother-in-law Naomi after both their husbands died.
- B. As this brilliantly crafted work of literature unfolds, scene by scene, Ruth who is awesome, goes out to glean, but finds something better. And we meet Boaz, who is also awesome. The next thing you know, they're moving toward marriage.
- C. But here's the stunning part: Boaz has announced that their firstborn son will not legally be his heir, but will instead carry on the name and inheritance of Ruth's first husband who has died. They are effectively giving up their only begotten son for Naomi's blessing and future.
- D. It's an Old Testament version of John 3:16: "For Boaz and Ruth so loved Naomi that they gave their only begotten son, that if she receives him, she will be richly blessed, and will not die, but will live on forever and ever."
- E. All of this goes down in public, with a big finale at the city gate in front of the entire community.
- F. Today, we're not just looking at an old story; we're uncovering God's blueprint for your personal Grace Breakthrough, hidden in the most unexpected places – even in a family scandal.
- G. Boaz says... here's what we're going to do... you all are witnesses.

**III. Text**

- A. *"And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said, 'We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this young woman.'"* (Ruth 4:11-12)
  - 1. This is so exciting, isn't it? We'll come back to it...
- B. *"So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son."* (Ruth 4:13)
  - 1. Nice literary touch here. The verb is "give." The Lord gave... and Ruth had a son.
  - 2. Throughout this story the characters say things about God and what they think God does.
  - 3. But there is another character who's easy to miss. That is the narrator.
  - 4. According to the narrator, the only thing God does is to give.
    - a) In Ruth 1:6, the Lord ended the famine and gave his people bread.
    - b) And now in Ruth 4:13, he reverses the power of death and gives Ruth conception.
  - 5. The bad stuff comes from Satan plus living in a fallen world. The good stuff comes from God.
- C. *"Then the women said to Naomi, 'Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him.'"* (Ruth 4:14-15)
  - 1. Notice two phrases...
    - a) A nourisher of your old age... what started this book? Famine in her youth.
    - b) A restorer of life... what started this book? Death, death, death, 3 deaths. Now this son is a restorer of life.
    - c) In literature, this is called "a reversal of fortune."
  - 2. Your daughter in law, WHO LOVES YOU... I get choked up every time I read those words.
  - 3. This is the only time the word LOVE happens in the whole book. But the whole book is about love.
  - 4. And I know that having a son never replaces a child who was lost. But having a Ruth (a source of grace) in your life, is better than 7 sons.
    - a) All this is saying is that
      - (1) **In this fallen world, grace won't erase your memories or eliminate your grief, but grace will give you blessings so beautiful you can carry on and find abundance even after loss.**
- D. *"Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse [literally, foster-mother] to him."* (Ruth 4:16)
  - 1. This is actually language for legal adoption.
- E. *"Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, 'There is a son born to Naomi.' And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David. Now this is the genealogy of Perez: Perez begot Hezron; Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab; Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon; Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed; Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David."* (Ruth 4:17-22)
  - 1. Why would the author of such a beautiful book end the story with a such a boring genealogy?

2. Because it isn't boring if you know what's up.
3. And what's up is that if you were telling the story of Ruth around a campfire at night with people who knew their history, they would know that the greatest king of Israel was David.
4. And as soon as you said, "David," everybody would say WOW. So this is the story of how we got our Great King! Wow!!
5. So let's try it... when I say David, you say wow...
  - a) Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David... (WOW).
6. But fast forward to our day... because does anybody here know who — a thousand years after the story of Ruth — what other Great King was descended from David?
7. King Jesus.
8. So what is this beautiful love story ultimately about?
9. It's about how you got your Savior. It's about how God gave the world its Great King. It's only King. It's King of Love and King of Grace.
10. What is Ruth about? Ruth is a theological treatise to teach a profound truth that few people ever discover:
  - a) **GRACE is the heart and soul of God's Cosmic Plan of Redemption through King Jesus.**

#### IV. Perez

- A. I need to go back to verse 12.
  1. *"May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this young woman."* (Ruth 4:12)
- B. If you know this story, you would know it's R rated. It's Genesis 38, which most preachers skip, but I actually preached when we were studying the life of Joseph. It's a horrible story. Shall I share it now?
  1. Judah had 3 sons. Son number 1 married Tamar. He was a horrible human being. He died.
  2. So, according to custom (there was no law of Moses yet), son number 2 married Tamar, but he refused to give her a son. He was also a horrible human being and he died too.
  3. Judah had a 3rd son, and he promised him to Tamar, but never kept the promise.
  4. Tamar, desperate for husband and offspring did something pretty wild.
  5. She disguised herself as a prostitute and seduced her own father-in-law, Judah himself. When her pregnancy was discovered, self-righteous Judah was ready to punish her...
  6. Until Tamar said..."Surprise! You're the daddy." And she had proof!
    - a) I told you. And I'm keeping it very tame. You should read it.
  7. But here's where it gets really good. Tamar bore twin sons, and during the birth, one twin stuck his hand out first. But his brother pushed past him and broke through to be born first.
  8. You should know that the firstborn son received a double share of the inheritance.
  9. So, the son who was going to be second born said, no way, and he pushed back and **broke through** to be born first.
  10. Do you know what Tamar named him? Perez.
  11. Do you know what Perez means? BREAKTHROUGH.
    - a) *"And so it was, when she was giving birth, that the one put out his hand; and the midwife took a scarlet thread and bound it on his hand, saying, 'This one came out first.' Then it happened, as he drew back his hand, that his brother came out unexpectedly; and she said, 'How did you break through? This breach be upon you!' Therefore his name was called Perez."* (Genesis 38:28-29)
- C. This is why the author of Ruth references the Tamar-Perez story.
- D. That baby said, "I don't want second best or a fraction of the blessing. I want the double portion. I want to be richly blessed, highly favored, deeply loved, and I'm going to live with the bold kind of faith that goes after it."
  1. Grace seeks faith like a heat seeking missile.
  2. See how God works? Even in what seems like a disaster, a moral mess, He engineers a breakthrough. This is how He shatters our disappointment – by showing His power to redeem anything... whether it's the pain machine causing it, or the devil, or an enemy, or our own dumb choices.
- E. There are characters in the book of Ruth whose names are forgotten. Because they didn't pursue grace.
  1. Ruth is one sister in law... what's the name of the other? Most people forget... Orpah.
  2. There were two relatives in line to buy Naomi's land. One is Boaz. What's the name of the other? We don't even know!
  3. There were two babies in Tamar's womb... one's named Perez. Who's the other?
    - a) **You are either going to settle for an okay life and an okay measure of blessing or you're going to press into your Grace Breakthrough and hold onto God and say, I will not let you go unless you BLESS me.**
- F. By the way... since we're talking genealogies, how about this one:
  1. *"Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram.... and Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ."* (Matthew 1:3, 16)
  2. **Your 'scandal' can be the seed of your Grace Breakthrough. God used Tamar's messy story to bring Perez – 'Breakthrough' – into Jesus's line. He's ready to do the same with your story.**

#### V. Grace Breakthrough

- A. Nobody in Scripture came to grace easily. Some fought it, like Paul. Others longed to turn back to bondage, like Israel in the wilderness. Still others simply couldn't get it, like the disciples of Jesus. In each case, grace caused trauma to everything you thought you knew about God.
- B. Why?
- C. Because for the natural mind, what you think you know about God is most likely a web of lies spun by the father of lies.

1. *"But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age [Satan] has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."* (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)
  - D. A grace breakthrough is the desperate need of every Christian. It is the desperate need of the Church. It is the pressing and urgent need of the world. This recovery of grace—true, deep, scandalous, utterly free grace—is the beginning of revival, it is the only hope of a world gone mad.
  - E. And, in an irony that has the devil laughing up his crisply-pressed sleeve, it is the one thing our hearts resist most.
  - F. We are born with an allergy to grace.
  - G. Welcome to the emotional, spiritual, and mental breakthrough you need most and want least.
  - H. **Nobody in the Bible got grace without a dramatic (sometimes traumatic) experience.**
    1. Paul had to get blinded and knocked off his horse.
    2. Peter had to hit rock bottom and find that Jesus still loved him.
    3. David had to get called out and exposed and find out God still loved him.
    4. Jacob had to wrestle with God until he got his hip dislocated and realized he could never win a blessing... he could only hold on in faith.
  - I. I've been preaching Grace all my life and people either get it or they don't.
- VI. Here is the scandal of grace.
- A. If you never did one good thing for God, he would still take you to heaven, on the power of the shed blood of Christ applied to the doorposts of your soul.
  - B. If you are ticked off that I just said that, you need your breakthrough.
  - C. We have the perfect gospel. Don't touch it. Just deliver it, and let God do the rest. It's that simple.
    1. They say, "Be radical for Jesus."
      - a) The gospel says, "Jesus was radical for you."
    2. They say, "Commit your life to Christ."
      - a) The gospel says, "Christ committed his life to you."
    3. They say, "Show crazy love for Jesus."
      - a) The gospel says, "Christ showed crazy love to you."
    4. They say, "Be All In for Jesus."
      - a) The gospel says, "Christ is all in for you."
    5. They say, "Be a fanatic for Jesus."
      - a) The gospel says, "Christ was a fanatic for you."
    6. They say, "Follow Jesus."
      - a) The gospel says, "Jesus followed you with mercy and grace till he caught you in his loving arms."
  - D. It's not you.
    1. It's not you, by obedience.
    2. It's not you, by works.
    3. It's not you, by performance.
    4. It's not you, by morality.
    5. It's not you, by religion.
    6. It's not you, by goodness.
    7. It's not you, by any effort, duty, obligation, blood, sweat, or tears.
      - a) It's just not you. The gospel is Christ. Christ alone.
  - E. No surer test can be applied to any truth claiming to be the gospel than this: What does it make of Christ Jesus and him crucified? Is he part of it, or is he all?
  - F. There was a day, long ago, when a little Italian boy sat on an overstuffed sofa in a Sunday School class in Chicago. And that little boy somehow rested his faith in a Savior who died for him and rose again.
  - G. On that day God proved true.
  - H. He'll prove true for you, too.
- VII. Cosmic Redemption
- A. The story of Ruth goes far beyond Ruth. Far beyond Boaz and Naomi. Far beyond the little town of Bethlehem where the whole story is set.
  - B. The story transcends the story on earth.
  - C. And I think this is the most important lesson of all.
  - D. I was speaking a few years ago with a friend who always felt God was letting him down. His prayers were never answered. His kid was sick and wan't healed. His finances were messed up.
  - E. God was letting him down. God didn't love him.
  - F. It hurt my heart to see it, because the giant pain machine was having its way with him, and he saw it as God's fault... just like someone in the book of Ruth... who would that be? Naomi.
  - G. But here's a secret decoder ring for your grace breakthrough:
    1. *"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory."* (Colossians 3:1-4)
  - H. In math and in physics professors talk about multiple dimensions.
    1. The first dimension is length... a one dimensional line.

2. The second dimension is width... a two dimensional plane, like a sheet of paper.
3. The third dimension is height... a three dimensional cube.
4. The fourth dimension is... TIME... and that's where my brain shuts down.

**VIII. Cosmic Grace**

- A. You see, your God isn't trapped in your dimensions. He doesn't live in length, width, height, or even time. He dwells in eternity.
  1. He sees the end from the beginning. He is the Alpha and the Omega.
  2. And this—this eternal, transcendent perspective—is what every page of Scripture is calling us to, whether it's Ruth or Colossians: "Set your minds on things above."
- B. From God's vantage point, the story of Ruth was never just a heartwarming tale of loyalty and love. It was a masterfully woven thread in an epic tapestry of cosmic redemption stretching across all time and into eternity itself.
- C. Paul says, "Your life is hidden with Christ in God."
- D. Think about that! Your story, with its own famine, death, pain, heartbreak... your own moments of feeling forgotten or let down, its own desperate need for breakthrough—that story is now caught up in God's grand, eternal narrative.
- E. Your life is not just a random series of events in a three-dimensional world, bound by time's relentless march.
  1. Do you think Naomi, Boaz, and Ruth had any idea that the son of their love would be the Great King David and the son of David would be the Son of God and the son of God would be the Savior of the world?
  2. **Grace promises that matter how rough your life can get, there's something beautiful, good, and awesome on the way, even if you never see it on earth, you will one day see it heaven.**
  3. **And on that day, you will say it was worth it all.**
  4. **When you pursue grace by faith, grace pursues you back, and you superglue every aspect of your life to the eternal purposes of God, and you have know idea of where your story will go someday.**
- F. This is the Grace Breakthrough that changes everything!
  1. It's realizing that the God who orchestrated Ruth's journey, who brought Perez through, who raised up David, and who sent Jesus to die for you, is the same God who holds your life, your future, your very being in His eternal, loving hands.
  2. It's understanding that even when you can only see the tangled threads on the underside of your life's tapestry, He is making a glorious, finished masterpiece.
  3. Even when you feel trapped in the limitations of your current struggles, He is working from a place of infinite power, wisdom, and eternal perspective.
- G. So when disappointment with God whispers its lies, when life feels chaotic and your efforts seem to fall short, I urge you—I implore you—seek those things which are above! Set your mind, your heart, your entire focus on the reality of Christ seated in power, on your life hidden safely in Him, on the unshakable promise that "When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory!"
  1. You DO have riches—spiritual riches in Christ that will never fade!
  2. You DO have blessings—every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places!
  3. You DO have a promised land—an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled!
  4. God IS faithful—with a faithfulness operating in dimensions beyond the space time continuum!
  5. Your prayers ARE answered—some of them in realms you can't yet see!
  6. Grace IS real—more real than your pain, more powerful than your circumstances!
  7. Your life DOES matter—it's woven into God's eternal, cosmic plan of redemption... even the messed up parts of it.
- H. Every loose thread of your story, every unanswered prayer that felt like a dead end, every tear you cried in the lonely watches of the night – by faith I hope you see them now, not as scattered fragments, but as streams, all flowing, converging, rushing towards one magnificent destination: the throne of God and of the Lamb.
- I. And as they arrive, they are transformed, no longer symbols of your pain, but jewels in your crown, and testimonies to His grace that never let you go, a love that bore you through."
- J. And in that moment, when you see Him as He is, grace will no longer be something you grasp by faith; it will be the very air you breathe, the light you see by, the ground you stand upon.
- K. Every disappointment will be swallowed up in a joy so complete, every pain will be healed by a love so beautiful, that the former things will not just be passed away, they will be redeemed, re-contextualized, and revealed as stepping stones on your journey into unimaginable glory.
- L. That's not just distant future hope—it's a GRACE BREAKTHROUGH that can transform how you live, love, and face every circumstance today. It's the ultimate perspective shift. It's seeing your life, your struggles, your hopes through the lens of God's unstoppable, cosmic, and deeply personal grace.
  1. Who is Naomi? A nobody.
  2. Who is Ruth? A nobody.
  3. Who is Boaz? A nobody.
  4. Who am I? A nobody.
    - a) Except for Jesus. He gives me a meaning and a worth and a transcendence that goes above this flat old earth and beyond the ages of time.
    - b) I pray that this glorious book of Ruth can bring you to your own grace breakthrough...
      - (1) **Grace Breakthrough: Believing that every line of your story is converted into a beautiful part of the cosmic drama of the ages—the story of King Jesus and His redeeming love.**
- M. I pray that the "Wow!" You said earlier for David can become an eternal "Hallelujah!" for the Son of David, our Savior, our Redeemer, our coming King!