

LOVESTORY

GOD'S EPIC TALE OF REDEMPTION

July 5, 2009 • Dr. David Platt

THE MYSTERY OF MERCY

Ruth 1

Two Places...

- A land of **promise**.
- A land of **compromise**.

Two People...

- A woman with honest **hurt**.
- A woman with humble **devotion**.

Two Points of Need...

- They were in need of **food**.
- They were in need of **family**.

Two Pictures of God...

- He is **great**.
- He is **good**.

One Promise for His People...

- In His sovereign design, God ordains sorrowful **tragedy** to set the stage for surprising **triumph**.
 - ▶ We think that God is **far** from us...
 - When we are surrounded by **famine**.
 - When everything seems **foreign**.
 - When **death** strikes.
 - When **despair** sinks in.
 - Amidst **loneliness**.
 - Amidst **barrenness**.
 - In our **grief**.
 - In our **shame**.
 - ▶ But God will show Himself **faithful** to us.
 - His grace will cover our **sin**.
 - His mercy will overcome our **sorrow**.

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“God Moves in a Mysterious Way”
William Cowper, 1774

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never failing skill,
He treasures up his bright designs
And works his sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy, and shall break
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the lord by feeble sense,
But trust him for his grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.

His purpose will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan his work in vain:
God is his own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.

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