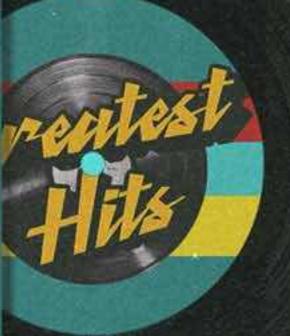
GREATEST HITS





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Perfect

Ed Sheeran

Ruth and Boaz

In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land...

So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him.

The man's name was Elimelech, and his wife was Naomi. Their two sons were Mahlon and Kilion.

...And when they reached Moab, they settled there.

Then Elimelech died, and Naomi was left with her two sons.

The two sons married Moabite women. One married a woman named Orpah, and the other a woman named Ruth.

But about ten years later, both Mahlon and Kilion died. This left Naomi alone, without her two sons or her husband.

But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried...

"Don't call me Naomi," she responded. "Instead, call me Mara, for the Almighty has made life very bitter for me.

I went away full, but the LORD has brought me home empty. Why call me Naomi when the LORD has caused me to suffer and the Almighty has sent such tragedy upon me?"

Now there was a wealthy and influential man in Bethlehem named Boaz, who was a relative of Naomi's husband, Elimelech.

One day Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go out into the harvest fields to pick up the stalks of grain left behind by anyone who is kind enough to let me do it." Naomi replied,

Naomi replied, "All right, my daughter, go ahead."

So Ruth went out to gather grain behind the harvesters. And as it happened, she found herself working in a field that belonged to Boaz, the relative of her father-inlaw, Elimelech.

"May the LORD bless him!" Naomi told her daughter-in-law. "He is showing his kindness to us as well as to your dead husband. That man is one of our closest relatives, one of our family redeemers."

A KINSMAN REDEEMER

- 1. Protect an impoverished family
- 2. Repurchase lost property
- 3. Redeem relatives sold as slaves
- 4. Provide an heir

One day Naomi said to Ruth, "My daughter, it's time that I found a permanent home for you, so that you will be provided for.

Boaz is a close relative of ours, and he's been very kind by letting you gather grain with his young women. Tonight he will be winnowing barley at the threshing floor.

Now do as I tell you—take a bath and put on perfume and dress in your nicest clothes. Then go to the threshing floor, but don't let Boaz see you until he has finished eating and drinking.

Ruth 3:3 NLT

Then Boaz told him, "Of course, your purchase of the land from Naomi also requires that you marry Ruth, the Moabite widow.

That way she can have children who will carry on her husband's name and keep the land in the family."

"Then I can't redeem it," the family redeemer replied, "because this might endanger my own estate. You redeem the land; l cannot do it."

So Boaz took Ruth into his home, and she became his wife. When he slept with her, the Lord enabled her to become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son.

...And they named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David.

Today's faithfulness will matter tomorrow.

Everyday people and everyday events are the canvas on which God is writing His story.

True love requires sacrifice.

You will never know how much someone cares about you until you see how much they are willing to sacrifice for you.