

**"The Redemption of Ruth"**

**Ruth 4:1-10**

**Introduction:** Today as we come back to our study in Ruth we have now come to the climax of the letter. We have worked our way through chapters 1-3 and as we did we have followed after Ruth and Naomi as Ruth gleaned in the field after the reapers. In her willingness to work she was directed by God to the field of a man by the name of Boaz.

From this we have learned many lessons but there are 2 that I want to bring back to your memory again.

- 1. When we are willing to move God will direct our steps to where He desires for us to be.**

**Proverbs 16:9**

*<sup>9</sup> A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.*

- 2. Even in the darkest of times God is still working to fulfill His plans.**

**Matthew 5:18**

*<sup>18</sup> For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

When Naomi discovered that Ruth had gleaned in the field of Boaz she was delighted because Boaz was a near kinsman of her husband Elimelech. Now under the Law of Moses there was a provision given by God concerning a man who had lost his property due to debt or had to sell his property due to debt. If a man lost his property and he died the nearest of kin then had the responsibility to step in and buy back the man's property and then marry his widow in order to continue the name of the deceased. Boaz was a near kinsman of Elimelech and therefore he qualified to buy the property which had belonged to Elimelech and then to marry Ruth to continue the family name.

Ruth approached Boaz the night at the threshing floor and he agreed to do the part of the kinsman. But there was a problem.

**Ruth 3:11-12**

*<sup>11</sup> And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.*

<sup>12</sup> *And now it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I.*

Ruth would need to wait until the following day to find out who her husband would be. This is where we left her last week. She was sitting still allowing God to work out His plan. This now brings us to where we are today.

### I. The Love of Boaz

#### Notice Ruth 4:1

The next day Boaz made his way to the gate of the city. The gate of the city was the political center of the city. It was here that legal affairs of the city were conducted. Boaz waited and eventually the nearer kinsman came to the gate.

#### Notice Ruth 4:2

Boaz summoned 10 men of the elders of the city and these men would be his witnesses as he presented the situation of Elimelech to the nearer kinsman.

#### Notice Ruth 4:3-4

Boaz presented to the nearer kinsman to situation and he agreed to do the part of the kinsman redeemer.

#### Notice Ruth 4:5-6

When the nearer kinsman found out that he would have to marry Naomi he said he could not redeem it lest he mar his own inheritance.

Now we need to stop here and we need to gather so vital information concerning how the process of the kinsman redeemer worked.

**The scroll-** When a parcel of land was for sale because of bankruptcy or to satisfy a debt the deed was placed in a building where all legal documents were kept. It would be much like our register and recorder's office today. The deed was wrapped up as a scroll and the terms of redemption were written on both the inside and the outside and it was then sealed.

**The kinsman redeemer-** There were 3 qualifications for a man to be the kinsman redeemer.

1. He had to be a near relative.

2. He had to be willing to perform the part of the kinsman redeemer.
3. He had to be able to perform the part of the kinsman redeemer.

Now I want to show you a picture of this.

### Revelation 5:1-5

*And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.*

*<sup>2</sup> And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?*

*<sup>3</sup> And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.*

*<sup>4</sup> And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.*

*<sup>5</sup> And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.*

Now let us get back to Ruth. The nearer kinsman met 2 of the qualifications but he failed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> because he was not able to perform the part of the kinsman redeemer. He was fine when it was dealing with just the land but when it came to taking Ruth as his wife he was unable to do it.

Now in order to understand this entire scene we must understand the typology.

**Boaz** is a type of Jesus Christ and we shall look at him in detail in a moment.

**The nearer kinsman** is a type or picture of the Old Testament Law. As a type of the Law let me show you why he was unable to redeem Ruth.

### Deuteronomy 23:3

*<sup>3</sup> An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever:*

This man is a picture of legalism. He was cold toward Ruth and uncaring.

**Application:**

This is exactly what you find in people who are legalistic. They care very little about others and they are completely focused upon themselves.

Boaz as a type of Jesus Christ is a picture of grace. Grace is warm and loving and grace is more concerned for others than it is for self.

**Now let me get you to the overall picture in this text here.**

Naomi and Ruth in this text represent all of mankind. You see, we were all born as sinners and every time we sin the sin gets placed on our account. As life goes on the debt grows larger and larger. Then we read what God says in Romans 6.

**Romans 6:23a**

*<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death;*

Every sin that we have ever committed must be paid for. But there is a major problem and that is that we are spiritually bankrupt. We cannot buy our forgiveness. Just like Naomi and Ruth could not redeem their lost property because they were bankrupt so we are the same.

Now many people want to turn to the Law and they believe if they keep the Law that God will then accept them. But that is nothing but a lie that is whispered in their ear by Satan.

The nearer kinsman in this story represents the Law and he could not redeem Ruth and remember the 10 witnesses which Boaz chose, they represent the 10 Commandments and the 10 Commandments testify that the Law cannot save us. Let me show you.

**Exodus 20**

**#1-** *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

**#2-** *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*

**#3-** *Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*

**#4-** *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

**#5-** *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

**#6-** *Thou shalt not kill.*

**#7-** *Thou shalt not commit adultery.*

**#8-** *Thou shalt not steal.*

**#9-** *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*

**#10-** *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.*

There is not one person alive today that can keep the Law but some say they keep most.

**James 2:10**

<sup>10</sup> *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*

The Law was never given to save anyone BUT it was given to show the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God and the sinfulness of mankind!

**Romans 3:20**

<sup>20</sup> *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

**Romans 7:7**

<sup>7</sup> *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.*

The ultimate purpose of the Law was to bring us to Jesus Christ.

**Galatians 3:24-25**

<sup>24</sup> *Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

<sup>25</sup> *But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.*

Jesus is our Kinsman Redeemer. He meets every one of the qualifications.

1. He is a near kinsman.

2. He was willing.
3. He was able.

So 2000 years ago Jesus went to the cross to pay the price of redemption for our souls.

**Colossians 1:14**

*<sup>14</sup>In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

The blood which Jesus shed upon the cross paid the price of redemption so that we could be forgiven.

**Notice Ruth 4:7-10**

Boaz paid the price of redemption and he married Ruth. She was bought with a price.

**Conclusion:**

The Law can never save you! There are people who believe you must keep the Law and trust in Jesus Christ to be saved. That is dead wrong. The Law was never given to save anyone. It was given so we could see that God required perfection and that we are not perfect and to bring us to Jesus Christ.

Under the Law people offered animal sacrifices but the blood of animals could never bring one man into the presence of God.

**Hebrews 10:4**

*<sup>4</sup>For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.*

So Jesus did that which the Law could never do.

**Hebrews 10:14**

*<sup>14</sup>For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.*

So the price for your sin has been paid but you need to accept Jesus and His finished work in order to be saved.

**John 1:12**

*<sup>12</sup>But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

*In 1829 two men, George Wilson and James Porter, robbed a United States mail carrier. Both were subsequently captured and tried in a court of law. In May 1830 both men were found guilty of six charges, including robbery of the mail "and putting the life of the driver in jeopardy." Both Wilson and Porter received their sentences: Execution by hanging, to be carried out on July 2.*

*Porter was executed on schedule, but Wilson was not. Influential friends pleaded for mercy to the President of the United States, Andrew Jackson, on his behalf. President Jackson issued a formal pardon, dropping all charges. Wilson would have to serve only a prison term of 20 years for his other crimes. Incredibly, George Wilson refused the pardon!*

*An official report stated Wilson chose to "waive and decline any advantage or protection which might be supposed to arise from the pardon..." Wilson also stated he "...had nothing to say, and did not wish in any manner to avail himself in order to avoid sentence..." The U.S. Supreme Court determined, "The court cannot give the prisoner the benefit of the pardon, unless he claims the benefit of it.... It is a grant to him: it is his property; and he may accept it or not as he pleases." Chief Justice John Marshall wrote, "A pardon is an act of grace, proceeding from the power entrusted with the execution of the laws.... (But) delivery is not completed without acceptance. It may then be rejected by the person to whom it is tendered, and...we have no power in a court to force it on him."*