



Lesson 4 – May 19, 2020

Review

Ruth has made a plea to Boaz to become their Kinsman-Redeemer. How did she do that?

What risks did she take to approach Boaz as she did?

How did Boaz respond to her “advances”?

Ruth 3:15-18

¹⁵He also said, “Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out.” When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and placed the bundle on her. Then he went back to town. ¹⁶When Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, “How did it go, my daughter?” Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her ¹⁷and added, “He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, ‘Don’t go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’”

¹⁸Then Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.”

Naomi has great faith in Boaz that he will do as he has promised. What has given her this kind of hope?

- First, the way Boaz treated Ruth when she was gleaning.
- Second, the way he responded when she lay at his feet.
- Third, he was a man of his word.

How important is it for you and me, as Christ-followers, to be people of our word?

1 Corinthians 4:2: Now it is **required** that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

How would you grade yourself in this category? Where would you put yourself on this scale:

Not dependable Dependable when it suits me Dependable most of the time Very dependable

Then Naomi tells Ruth what she probably doesn't want to hear—"Wait, my daughter. . ."

African saying: "Hurry, hurry has no blessing."

James 5:7 – 8: Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.

Ruth 4: 1 - 6

Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the guardian-redeemer he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down. ²Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so. ³Then he said to the guardian-redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelek. ⁴I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line." "I will redeem it," he said. ⁵Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property." ⁶At this, the guardian-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it."

We see here how skillfully Boaz negotiates with the other near relative. Jesus said to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves, meaning we should be smart about our dealings, always honest but never duped or naïve.

What does it mean to redeem something? It means to “set free by paying a price.”

Notice that in this redemptive process for Ruth and Naomi, they are nowhere near the negotiations. Though their destiny hung in the balance, she and Naomi were at home waiting to find out what happened.

God's doesn't need your help to redeem your situation.

How often do you and I get in God's way?

“Be still and know that I am God?” Why is that hard for us to do?

Galatians 3:3: Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?

Ruth 4:7 - 12

⁷(Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.) ⁸So the guardian-redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it yourself.” And he removed his sandal. ⁹Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, “Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon. ¹⁰I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown. Today you are witnesses!” ¹¹Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, “We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. ¹²Through the offspring the LORD gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah.”

Why would Boaz redeem Naomi and Ruth?

It was not in his best interest. He had nothing to gain financially by marrying Ruth.

Why did he do it? Because it was in the heart of this good man to redeem!

God didn't “need” to redeem us. But wonder of wonders, he not only stepped down to our planet to save us, he continually steps into our lives as Redeemer.

When Jesus came to earth, he came at unimaginable expense to himself.

Philippians 2:5 – 11: In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature^(b) of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus become our near Kinsman—our Kinsman-Redeemer.

Hebrews 2:14-15, 17: Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. . . ¹⁷For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

He became human so that he might redeem. When Boaz came to Ruth's aid, she responded, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?" (Ruth 2:10). That should exactly be our response to what Jesus has done for us.

Ruth 4:13 - 22

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. ¹⁴ The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! ¹⁵ He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth." ¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. ¹⁷ The women living there said, "Naomi has a son!" And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David. ¹⁸ This, then, is the family line of Perez: Perez was the father of Hezron, ¹⁹ Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, ²⁰ Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, ²¹ Salmon the father

of Boaz, Boaz the father of Obed, ²² Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David.

The last verse of chapter 4 is the central message of Ruth: Boaz begot Obed; Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.”

The eternal God had a plan for Ruth well beyond her scope or grasp, just as he so often has in our circumstances.

The book of Ruth opens with three funerals but closes with a wedding. Chapter 1 is sorrow; chapter 4 is joy.

The book of Ruth beautifully illustrates God’s work of salvation. But it also illustrates the believer’s deepening relationship with the Lord. Look how Ruth’s relationship to Boaz changes from complete stranger to loving wife.

Do you have that kind of a relationship with Jesus?