

## Our Redeemer Lives

Ruth 3:15- 4:22

October 11, 2009

### Intro

As we continue our study through the book of Ruth, we come to chapter 4 which is really the highlight of the whole book, for it is in this chapter where we see Ruth become the wife of Boaz and where Boaz becomes the goel redeemer of Ruth.

If you remember from last week, there had been a severe famine in the land of Israel so Elimelech and his wife, Naomi, along with their two sons, "sick and tired," left their home town of Bethlehem to go to the land of Moab. Instead of trusting in God to sustain them through the storm, they decided to look for something better in the land of Moab. The problem is that God called Moab His washbowl; it is a picture of the darkness and sinfulness of the world.

They thought things were bad in Israel, but life only became more difficult for them in Moab, which is a great lesson in itself. Elimelech died, and then their two sons also died. All that Naomi had left were her two Moabite daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah. After 10 years in Moab, Naomi finally decided to go back to Bethlehem. Ruth and Orpah were instructed to remain in Moab and find new husbands. Orpah did go back, but Ruth refused to be separated from Naomi, best we then began to see that Ruth was a woman of great character.

Once back in Bethlehem, Ruth went out to glean in the fields, which was allowed by law for those who were in extreme poverty, and she "just so happened" to come upon the field which belonged to Boaz. Boaz had heard of all that she had done for her mother-in-law after the death of her husband and so he blessed her and even instructed his workers to pull out handfuls of grain on purpose for her to glean.

In chapter 3, Naomi instructed Ruth in requesting Boaz to become her goel redeemer. That brings us to Ruth Chapter 4.

### **I. God Has Settled it Today**

- 1 We really must start in chapter 3 verse 15 where Boaz told Ruth to hold her cloak while he filled it with six measures of barley to take to her mother-in-law.
- 2 This actually becomes a bit of a coded message which Naomi immediately understands. By sending six measures of barley, he is telling Naomi that he will not rest until this matter is settled. Naomi would know that God rested on the seventh day and so Boaz would himself not yet rest until this matter was settled.
- 3 So as we see these events unfold, it becomes for us a beautiful picture of our own redeemer, Jesus Christ.

#### A. Don't go around God's Word

- 4 It becomes very clear to us in this story that Boaz greatly respects and admires Ruth and that Ruth greatly desires Boaz as her husband.

- 5 But what comes to light is that there is a nearer relative than Boaz. This could be a great problem for both of them, but this is where the faith of Boaz and his trust in God's Word becomes a great example for all of us.
- 6 Boaz is committed to fulfill God's Word; he's not going to go around it in order to get what he wants. In other words, he is going to honor God's Word and trust that God will work all things together by His sovereign hand.
- 7 There are some people who say, "If I do things God's way, then I'll never get what I want. I'm going to do things my way for now, and then I'll get back to doing things God's way later."
- 8 The problem is that it never works out in the end.
- 9 The other problem is that it begins a pattern of compromise.

**App - Standing on God's Word and not compromising your life is a question of faith, of trusting God with your life and decisions. It's believing that God is the one who will bless your faithfulness.**

- 10 In the same way, Jesus refused to do the easy thing. He honored God's Word in every way.

**Matthew 5:18, "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not one jot or one tittle will pass from the law till all is fulfilled."**

- 11 Jesus' heart becomes very clear to us when he prayed to His Father in the Garden of Gethsemane...

**Luke 22:42, saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."**

- 12 Boaz presented to the nearer relative the opportunity to redeem Naomi's land, trusting that God would work this out.

**B. Know how valuable you are**

- 1 When Boaz presented the nearer relative with the opportunity to redeem Naomi's land, he at first said that he wanted to redeem it. After all, this would be very inexpensive property to add to the property he already owned.
- 2 But when Boaz informed him that there was another provision of the law that needed to be fulfilled; that there was a widow of Naomi's son that must also be taken as a wife, the nearer relative refused.

- 3 The nearer relative was only interested in the land, he had no interest whatsoever in Ruth, and in fact he said, "I cannot redeem."
- 4 If we look to the symbolism of this book, we see clearly that Boaz becomes a picture of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Naomi becomes a picture of the Jewish people, and Ruth becomes a picture of the church. What then does the nearer relative represent?
- 5 Many commentators believe that the nearer relative is a picture of the law. It has a rightful claim, but is unable to redeem us.

**Romans 8:3-4, For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh... so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us...**

- 6 There is also no relationship in the law. It is a tutor that points us to Christ, but without relationship.

**Illus - I remember a pastor I knew once who admitted that his great problem was that he didn't like people. It's no surprise that he didn't make it as a pastor.**

- 7 In contrast, Boaz was not interested in obtaining the land for himself because he was already very wealthy, he was interested in Ruth.
- 8 This is clearly a picture of the heart of God through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

**Isaiah 43:1, But now, thus says the Lord, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; child you are Mine!"**

- 1 Jesus taught a parable with this exact point in mind.

**Matthew 13:44, "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."**

- 2 Our problem is that we tend to get caught up with the value of the field.

**Illus - I remember one of the houses we used to own had a large lawn and I wanted it to be beautiful so I mowed it and fertilize it and edged it. But apparently, the gophers thought that it belonged to them. Thus began the famous gopher wars. Unfortunately however, I was defeated.**

- 3 The lesson from the book of Ruth here for each of us is to see the value that God has in each of us.

- 4 Our problem is that we often don't see things the way God sees. We tend to say with the psalmist..

**Psalm 8:3-4, When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained; what is man that You take thought of him...**

- 1 However, God has a very different perspective on our value.

**Mark 8:36, "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?"**

**App – There is a love that cares more about you than about the whole universe. People may have hurt you and let you down, but you need to know how much God loves you.**

## **II. We have Been Bought with a Price**

- 1 When the nearer relative declared that he was unable to redeem Naomi's land and take Ruth as his wife, he said to Boaz, "You buy it for yourself."
- 2 In other words, you become the Redeemer, for I cannot. He then took off his shoe and handed it to Boaz. This has great significance. (Deuteronomy 25:5-10)
- 3 We really must see the application to ourselves in this book because it has such a direct application to each one of us.

### A. We must acknowledge our poverty

- 1 The law of the redeemer is given as a provision for those who have become so poor, so indebted, that they cannot redeem themselves.

**Leviticus 25:23-25 The law of the redeemer.**

- 2 There are many people, however, who refuse to see their need for God, their spiritual poverty.

**Revelation 3:17-18, "Because you say, 'I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,' and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich..."**

- 3 But if we will acknowledge our spiritual poverty, oh what promises are ours...

**Isaiah 55:1-13 Ho! Everyone who thirsts...**

B. May the love of Christ compel us

- 4 Boaz redeemed Ruth because of his love for her.
- 5 When we read the story we must also see that Christ redeemed us because of his great love for us. **John 3:16** makes that very clear.
- 6 Jesus loves us and is able to fulfill all the requirements of a Redeemer.
  1. A near kinsman -- Jesus is related to us by blood and thus he is qualified to be our kinsman Redeemer.

**Galatians 4:4-5, But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.**

2. He must be free himself -- the Redeemer cannot be in poverty. He must be free from debt himself.

**2 Corinthians 5:21, He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

3. He must be willing -- Jesus made it clear that he willingly gave his life on the cross.

**John 10:17-18, For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.**

4. He must be able -- how great was our debt? Yet, not only was Christ able to pay our debt, he also gave us the righteousness of Christ.

**1 Peter 1:18-19, knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.**

- 1 If we could only understand how great is the love that Christ has for us, it would compel us to change the way we live our lives.

**Illus – Heaven is many things to many people, but the greatest value of heaven is that God himself is there.**