

RUTH SERIES #3 - "Our Kinsman-Redeemer" - Ruth 3

INTRODUCTION

As a kid growing up in Chicago, collected "Green Stamps." Would get them from buying groceries or gas or other items. An incentive to shop at certain stores. Would save them up then take to the "Redemption" center for merchandise. I purchased my first microscope that way. The idea was that you had saved up something of value, then take it to the place where there were items kept in store for you.

The Bible a Story of Redemption and the book of Ruth is a marvelous picture of redemption.

TEXT

Vs. 1-5

1 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?"

Ruth had been faithfully going to the fields to work every morning. At end of ch. 2, we read she harvested from the barley, through the end of the wheat harvest. That meant 2 months of very hard work. Naomi appreciated her hard work and devotion and she was determined to help Ruth find a husband! She said, "Shall I not seek security for you?" Literally we could render that as, "Shall I not find a place for you to settle down." Naomi took it upon herself to play the matchmaker for Ruth.

2 "Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our kinsman? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.

3 "Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.

4 "Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do."

5 And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do."

It is clear to Naomi that Boaz has taken a fancy to Ruth. So she tells Ruth to encourage him. The plan was this: Boaz was winnowing his barley in the evening at the threshing floor. [Teacher - describe the process of winnowing. They took grain and laid it out on a large flat rock. Then they would beat it with heavy rods, or sometimes walk cattle over it. Then when thoroughly crushed, they would hoist it into the air with pitchforks. Did this in the evening when a stiff breeze would blow across the land. Lighter chaff would be blown away, leave the choice grain to fall to the rock floor. Then, after several hours of this, they would load it into sacks.] This process took several days, so at night, they would sleep at the threshing floor to protect the grain from animals and thieves. That's why Boaz would be spending the night there. Naomi tells Ruth to take a bath, put on some foo-foo juice, take off her widow's

garments, put on her nicest duds, and head on over to the threshing floor. She is to wait till the men have had their evening meal and settled down for the night. Then, she was to go in, and lay down at Boaz's feet, taking some of his blanket and covering herself with it. [Teacher - you might make mention of how couples often fight over the covers.]

Naomi is tricky here - she tells Ruth to pull the covers off Boaz. When his feet get cold, he'll wake up and start looking around. Then he'll see Ruth and put 2 & 2 together.
Vs. 6-9

6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her.

7 And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.

8 Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet.

9 And he said, "Who are you?" So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a near kinsman."

Ruth does just what Naomi told her to do. She went in after the men had settled down. She laid down at Boaz's feet and pulled his blanket over herself. At about midnight, Boaz wakes up and is startled. His feet are cold, so he goes to reach for his blanket in the dark. But his feet hit a body. He sits up and discovers a stranger lying there. He asks "Who are you?" [Teacher -act it out; as a surprised and maybe even scared Boaz.] Then Ruth's tender little voice came from under his blanket. "It's me, Boaz. It's Ruth. Take me under your wing for you are my Near kinsman."

This was nothing less than a proposal of marriage on Ruth's part. "Take me under your wing" was an idiom for marriage. In some bibles it is translated as "Spread your skirt over me." In Ezekiel 16, God uses this same phrase to describe His taking Israel as His wife.

Ruth based her request for marriage on the fact that Boaz was her near kinsman. Now, this introduces a practice in Israel we are not familiar with today. In the law of Moses, God had made it very clear that land could not be sold. It could be leased, but not sold. Every 50 years, the land had to revert back to the original owner. So if someone wanted to lease their land, they would prorate it depending on how many years were left in each 50 year cycle. The reason why they could not sell their land was because they didn't really own it = GOD DID. The land belonged to God, and they were to see their ownership as stewardship of God's property.

(Lev 25:23-25) "The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me. And in all the land of your possession you shall grant redemption of the land. If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, and if his REDEEMING RELATIVE comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold."

Those words REDEEMING RELATIVE are one word in Hebrew = GOEL; a Kinsman Redeemer. A very important role in Jewish society. If a family member leased his land and fell into poverty, it was the responsibility of the GOEL to redeem the lost land and give it back

to owner. The Kinsman-Redeemer had another important duty. He was the "avenger of blood." That means if a family member was murdered or harmed in any way, it was his duty to make sure justice was carried out on the guilty one. So the kinsman redeemer would pursue him until justice was done.

Before Elimelech and Naomi had left Bethlehem 10 years before, Elimelech and disposed of his lands. Because Elimelech is dead, the land belonged to his sons but they are dead as well, so they belonged to Ruth. Now that Naomi and Ruth have returned to Bethlehem, the lands are under someone else's control. Ruth went to Boaz for two reasons: 1) to reclaim her land, 2) and to ask him to fulfill his other duty of marrying her as a surrogate for her dead husband.

That night, as she lay at his feet, she said to him, "Boaz, you are my GOEL. I ask you to fulfill your responsibilities as my Kinsman-Redeemer."

Vs. 10-11

10 Then he said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich.

11 "And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman.

Ruth had shown great courage and loyalty in leaving her home in Moab to stay with Naomi and come to Bethlehem. She had a good reputation among the people. Now Boaz commends her for her wisdom in seeking him out as her goel.

As the story goes on, a problem arises in Boaz's redeeming the land and marrying Ruth. a. it turns out there is another guy who is a closer kinsman than Boaz. By rights, he has first shot at redeeming the land. But Boaz overcomes this problem and ends up marrying Ruth and restoring her lost inheritance. But so far we have seen something very important for us to ponder.

As we saw last week, the Book of Ruth is not merely a beautiful love story – It is a picture of our relationship with Jesus Christ. Boaz is a picture of Jesus Christ and Ruth is a type of the church. Ruth was a foreigner, a stranger to the things of God, living off the leftovers, but Boaz came from Bethlehem and gave her the best of the field. Today we've seen that Ruth had lost her lands and had no hope of recovering them. So she went to Boaz, her kinsman, and asked him to redeem both her and her lost inheritance. Friends, this is precisely what Jesus Christ has done for us. Jesus is our GOEL, our kinsman redeemer. And a powerful picture of Jesus as our goel is found in Rev. 5 - turn there.

{1} And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

Of course this is John's vision of the throne room of heaven. On the throne sits God the Father. In His hand is a scroll with writing on both sides. IN the ancient world, title deeds were the only kinds of scrolls to be written on both sides. So what we have here is a title deed to something.

{2} Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"

{3} And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

{4} So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

Time had come for the title deed to be opened and put into effect. So an angel came forth and issued the invitation, but there was not a single person in all creation qualified to do it. When John sees this, he breaks down and starts to weep uncontrollably. Why? Because he knows what the scroll is – it was the title deed to earth and to man's lost inheritance. And there is no one qualified to redeem man. John sees man's last hope of redemption slipping away. Just as Naomi and Ruth saw their last hopes of redeeming their lands and passing them on to the next generation slipping away from them with the passing of each month.

{5} But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

{6} And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

In the midst of John's sobbing, he is told to stop, because one has been found who is worthy to take the scroll. He is told he is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, but when he looks he sees a lamb, bearing the marks of sacrifice. It is none other than Jesus Christ – king Of Israel – Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

{7} Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

{8} Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

{9} And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

{10} And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."

When Jesus took the scroll out of the Father's hand, all of heaven began to worship and glorify God. And rightly so, because it meant that the final redemption of man and earth had been secured and now was going to be brought to pass. You see, friends, Jesus is our GOEL, our kinsman redeemer. God gave man dominion over the earth. But man turned against God and fell into sin. Man lost his dominion and turned it over to satan. Earth had been given to man, had been lost by man, and could only be redeemed by man. But all men are born in sin and slavery to the devil. Therefore, all men were disqualified to claim the redemption. It looked like man's fate was sealed and he would forever live under the bondage of the devil.

This is why Jesus came; why God became a man! He came so He could reclaim our lost heritage and dominion. Jesus was the only man to be born upon whom Satan could lay no claim. Jesus was sinless, perfect, free. By dying on the cross, he made just payment for the sins of all mankind and gained legal right to possess earth. If a man or woman trusts in Jesus Christ today, they become a part of His engaged bride. Like Ruth said to Boaz, they say to

Jesus, "I know you are my kinsman redeemer. Make me your bride and restore me to what was lost."

Right now, God holds the title deed to earth in His hand. Jesus has obtained the right to open it & enforce it. But the time has not yet come. In other words, Jesus has closed escrow on earth, but he hasn't move in yet. One day very soon, He is coming to take possession of earth & marry the church. The reason he delays is because He is waiting for you to call out to Him as your kinsman redeemer.

CONCLUSION

As we close, note just a few things. Boaz was more than willing to answer Ruth's requests. The more you study the story your realize that he was waiting for her to come to him and ask his help. Friend, Jesus is our kinsman and he wants to help. We need to come to him and ask -He is ready, willing and able to help.

OUTLINE FOR ABOVE MESSAGE

I. INTRODUCTION

A. *Redemption*

1. Green Stamps: as a kid in Chicago - my first microscope
2. Idea was that you had saved up something of value, now taking it to the place were there were items kept in store for you

B. *The Bible a Story of Redemption*

1. The book of Ruth is a marvelous picture of redemption

II. TEXT

A. *Vs. 1-5*

- 1 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?"
 1. Ruth had been faithfully going to the fields to work every morning
 2. At end of ch. 2, we read she harvested from the barley, through the end of the wheat harvest
 - a. 2 months of very hard work
 3. Naomi appreciates her hard work and devotion
 4. And she is determined to help Ruth find a husband!
 5. "Shall I not seek security for you?"
 - a. Lit. = "Shall I not find a place for you to settle down."
 - b. Naomi takes it upon herself to play the matchmaker for Ruth
- 2 "Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our kinsman? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.
 - 3 "Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.
 - 4 "Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the

place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do."

5 And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do."

6. It is clear to Naomi that Boaz has taken a fancy to Ruth

7. So she tells Ruth to encourage him

8. The plan was this . . .

a. Boaz was winnowing his barley in the evening at the threshing floor

they took grain and laid it out on a large flat rock

then they would beat it with heavy rods, or sometimes walk cattle over it

then when thoroughly crushed, they would hoist it into the air with pitchforks

did this in the evening when a stiff breeze would blow across the land

lighter chaff would be blown away, leave the choice grain to fall to the rock floor

then, after several hours of this, they would load it into sacks

b. this process took several days, so at night, they would sleep at the threshing floor to protect the grain from animals and thieves

c. that's why Boaz would be spending the night there

d. Naomi tells Ruth to take a bath, put on some foo-foo juice, take off her widow's garments, put on her nicest duds, and head on over to the threshing floor

e. she is to wait till the men have had their evening meal and settled down for the night

f. then, she was to go in, and lay down at Boaz's feet, taking some of his blanket and covering herself with it

- Lynn & I, at home, no problem

- but stayed at a few hotels where not enough covers

g. Naomi is tricky here - she tells Ruth to pull the covers off Boaz

h. when his feet get cold, he'll wake up and start looking around

i. then he'll see Ruth and put 2 & 2 together

B. Vs. 6-9

6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her.

7 And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.

8 Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet.

9 And he said, "Who are you?" So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a near kinsman."

1. Ruth does just what Naomi told her to do

2. She went in after the men had settled down

3. She laid down at Boaz's feet and pulled his blanket over herself

4. At about midnight, Boaz wakes up and is startled

a. his feet are cold, so he goes to reach for his blanket in the dark

b. but his feet hit a body

c. he sits up and discovers a stranger lying there

d. he asks "Who are you?"

e. then Ruth's tender little voice came from under his blanket

- d. "It's me, Boaz. It's Ruth. Take me under your wing for you are my Near kinsman."
5. This was nothing less than a proposal of marriage on Ruth's part
 - a. "Take me under your wing" was an idiom for marriage
 - b. in some bibles it is translated as "Spread your skirt over me."
 - c. in Ezekiel 16, God uses this same phrase to describe His taking Israel as His wife
6. Ruth based her request for marriage on the fact that Boaz was her near kinsman
7. Now, this introduces a practice in Israel we are not familiar with today
8. In the law of Moses, God had made it very clear that land could not be sold
 - a. it could be leased, but not sold
 - b. every 7 years, the land had to revert back to the original owner
 - c. so if someone wanted to lease their land, they would prorate it depending on how many years were left in each 7 year cycle
 - d. the reason why they could not sell their land was because they didn't really own it = GOD DID
 - e. the land belonged to God, and they were to see their ownership as stewardship of God's property
 - f. (Lev 25:23-25) "The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me. And in all the land of your possession you shall grant redemption of the land. If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, and if his REDEEMING RELATIVE comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold."
 - g. those words REDEEMING RELATIVE are one word in Hebrew = GOEL; a Kinsman Redeemer
 - h. a very important role in Jewish society
 - i. if a family member leased his land and fell into poverty, it was the responsibility of the GOEL to redeem the lost land and give it back to owner
 - j. The Kinsman-Redeemer had another important duty. he was the avenger of blood that means if a family member was murdered or harmed in any way, it was his duty to make sure justice was carried out on the guilty one so the kinsman redeemer would pursue him until justice was done
9. Before Elimelech and Naomi had left Bethlehem 10 years before, Elimelech and disposed of his lands
 - a. because Elimelech is dead, the land belonged to his sons
 - b. but they are dead as well, so they belonged to Ruth
10. Now that Naomi and Ruth have returned to Bethlehem, the lands are under someone else's control
11. Ruth went to Boaz for two reasons
 - a. to reclaim her land
 - b. and to ask him to fulfill his other duty of marrying her as a surrogate for her dead husband
12. That night, as she lay at his feet, she said to him, "Boaz, you are my GOEL. I ask you to fulfill your responsibilities as my Kinsman-Redeemer."

C. Vs. 10-11

10 Then he said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown

more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich.

11 "And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman.

1. Ruth had shown great courage and loyalty in leaving her home in Moab to stay with Naomi and come to Bethlehem
2. She had a good reputation among the people
3. But now Boaz commends her for her wisdom in seeking him out as her goel
4. Now, as the story goes on, and as we'll see on Wednesday evening, a problem arises in Boaz's redeeming the land and marrying Ruth
 - a. it turns out there is another guy who is a closer kinsman than Boaz
 - b. by rights, he has first shot at redeeming the land
 - c. but Boaz overcomes this problem and ends up marrying Ruth and restoring her lost inheritance

D. Our Kinsman-Redeemer

1. As we saw last week, the Book of Ruth is not merely a beautiful love story –
2. It is a picture of our relationship with Jesus Christ
3. Boaz is a picture of Jesus Christ and Ruth is a type of the church
4. Ruth was a foreigner, a stranger to the things of God, living off the leftovers, but Boaz came from Bethlehem and gave her the best of the field
5. Today we've seen that Ruth had lost her lands and had no hope of recovering them
6. So she went to Boaz, her kinsman, and asked him to redeem both her and her lost inheritance
7. Friends, this is precisely what Jesus Christ has done for us
8. Jesus is our GOEL, our kinsman redeemer
9. And a powerful picture of Jesus as our goel is found in Rev. 5 – turn there
 - {1} And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.
10. Of course this is John's vision of the throne room of heaven
11. On the throne sits God the Father
12. In His hand is a scroll with writing on both sides
 - a. title deeds were the only kinds of scrolls to be written on both sides
 - b. so what we have here is a title deed to something
- {2} Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"
- {3} And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.
- {4} So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.
13. Time had come for the title deed to be opened and put into effect
14. So an angel came forth and issued the invitation, but there was not a single person in all creation qualified to do it
15. When John sees this, he breaks down and starts to weep uncontrollably
 - a. why?

- b. because he knows what the scroll is -
- c. it is the title deed to earth and to man's lost inheritance
- d. and there is no one qualified to redeem man
- e. John sees man's last hope of redemption slipping away
- f. just as Naomi and Ruth saw their last hopes of redeeming their lands and passing them on to the next generation slipping away from them with the passing of each month

{5} But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

{6} And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

16. In the midst of John's sobbing, he is told to stop, because one has been found who is worthy to take the scroll

17. He is told he is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, but when he looks he sees a lamb, bearing the marks of sacrifice

18. It is none other than Jesus Christ - king Of Israel - Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world

{7} Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

{8} Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

{9} And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

{10} And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."

19. When Jesus took the scroll out of the Father's hand, all of heaven began to worship and glorify God

20. And rightly so, because it meant that the final redemption of man and earth had been secured and now was going to be brought to pass

21. You see, friends, Jesus is our GOEL, our kinsman redeemer

a. God gave man dominion over the earth

b. but man turned against God and fell into sin

c. man lost his dominion and turned it over to satan

d. earth had been given to man, had been lost by man, and could only be redeemed by man

e. but all men are born in sin and slavery to the devil

f. therefore, all men were disqualified to claim the redemption

i. it looked like man's fate was sealed and he would forever live under the bondage of the devil

22. This is why Jesus came; why God became a man!

a. he came so He could reclaim our lost heritage and dominion

b. Jesus was the only man to be born upon whom Satan could lay no claim

c. Jesus was sinless, perfect, free

d. by dying on the cross, he made just payment for the sins of all mankind and gained legal right to possess earth

e. if a man or woman trusts in Jesus Christ today, they become a

part of His engaged bride

f. like Ruth said to Boaz, they say to Jesus, "I know you are my kinsman redeemer. Make me your bride and restore me to what was lost."

23. Right now, God holds the title deed to earth in His hand

a. Jesus has obtained the right to open it & enforce it

b. but the time has not yet come

c. in other words, Jesus has closed escrow on earth, but he hasn't move in yet

d. one day very soon, He is coming to take possession of earth & marry the church

e. the reason he delays is because He is waiting for you to call out to Him as your kinsman redeemer

III. CONCLUSION

A. Jesus Is Our Kinsman

1. As we close, note just a few things . . .

2. Boaz was more than willing to answer Ruth's requests

3. The more you study the story your realize that he was waiting for her to come to him and ask his help

4. Friend, Jesus is our kinsman and he wants to help

5. We need to come to him and ask -He is ready, willing and able to help

B. Come To Him