



May 18, 2014

Ruth 3-4

"Love and Redemption"

Pastor Gary Hamrick

As we come to the close of the book of Ruth we pick up the story with the *"it just so happened"* meeting of Ruth and Boaz. This phrase refers to the providence of God, and the times when he works behind the scenes to accomplish his good purposes in the lives of people, and that's just what he was doing for Ruth and Boaz. We need to be reminded often of the fact that just because we can't see what God is up to, his unseen providential hand is no less miraculous than his visible hand of power. He is, in fact, weaving a tapestry that will eventually tell a story, which is what brought about a love story that would have eternal significance.

Boaz The Kinsman-Redeemer

1. After Ruth met Boaz, she went home to Naomi, her mother-in-law, and shared the news of how she met a CEO who was single, wealthy, and loved God!
2. **Ruth 2:19-23** - *"Her mother-in-law asked her, 'Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!' Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been working. 'The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz,' she said. 'The Lord bless him!' Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. 'He [God] has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead.' She added, 'that man is our close relative; he is one of our kinsman-redeemers.' Then Ruth the Moabitess said, 'He even said to me, 'Stay with my workers until they finish harvesting all my grain.' Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, 'It will be good for you, my daughter, to go with his girls, because in someone else's field you might be harmed.' So Ruth stayed close to the servant girls of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law."*

3. Naomi knew Boaz was a kinsman-redeemer.
 - a. The Hebrew word is goel, which comes from the root word meaning “to redeem.”
 - b. This word has everything to do with understanding this story, and it appears 23 times, which is more than in any other book in the Old Testament.
 - c. The kinsman-redeemer was the nearest, living, male, blood relative.
 - d. There were specific obligations that were his responsibility concerning his next of kin, including:
 - i. If, because of poverty, a relative was forced to sell his property, the kinsman had the first option to buy any land being sold so that the land would stay within the family.
 1. [Leviticus 25:25, 28](#) and [Ruth 3:9, 12](#)
 - ii. If, because of poverty, a relative was forced to sell himself into slavery, it was the duty of the kinsman, when possible, to redeem him (to buy him back).
 1. [Leviticus 25:48-49](#)
4. When Naomi heard that Ruth had made a good impression on Boaz, she was excited because she was hopeful that she would get out of poverty and Ruth would get a husband!

Look Good And Smell Good

5. [Ruth 3:1-3](#) - *“One day Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, ‘My daughter, should I not try to find a home for you, where you will be well provided for? Is not Boaz, with whose servant girls you have been, a kinsman of ours? Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. Wash and perfume yourself, and put on your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don’t let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking.’”*
6. Naomi’s advice was extremely and wonderfully practical for Ruth.
7. Because Naomi had to coach Ruth, demonstrates that Ruth was a virtuous woman who wasn’t trying to turn men’s heads or attempting to dress to impress.
8. Ruth’s noble character was what attracted Boaz, a man of noble character, because it’s true that you attract the kind of person you are, however, there’s nothing wrong with looking your best, especially if you’d like a special someone to notice you.

9. Naomi basically told Ruth to “take a bath, soak in some bath salts, get your nails done, and put make-up on and wear nice clothes!”

A Man Is In A Better Mood On A Full Stomach

10. Naomi, having been married, gave Ruth some great advice, when she said, “When you go out to meet him don’t let him know you’re there, and don’t just walk up to him and tell him you need to talk about your relationship status.”
11. **Ruth 3:4** - *“When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do.”*
12. What Naomi was telling her to do was to make it known to Boaz that she was interested and available.

It’s Okay To Let A Man Know That You Are Interested And Available

13. A woman shouldn’t chase a man, but it’s okay to get in front of him, because sometimes guys are a little thick-headed, a little intimidated,¹ and sometimes they lack confidence, so giving a man a little indication that she is interested and available is all he needs to give him incentive to make a move.
14. **Ruth 3:7-9** - *“When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. In the middle of the night something startled the man, and he turned and discovered a woman lying at his feet. ‘Who are you?’ he asked. ‘I am your servant Ruth,’ she said. ‘Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer.’ ”*
15. Ruth’s actions were not a request for sex, but a request for protection/covering, in a spiritual sense, like the garment was in a physical sense.
16. **Ruth 3:10-13** - *“ ‘The Lord bless you, my daughter,’ he replied. ‘This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. And now, my daughter, don’t be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All my fellow townsmen know that you are a woman of noble character. Although it is true that I am near of kin, there is a kinsman-redeemer nearer than I. Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants*

¹ Sometimes a man doesn’t pursue a woman, not because he’s not interested, but because he doesn’t think she would be interested in him.

to redeem, good; let him redeem. But if he is not willing, as surely as the Lord lives I will do it. Lie here until morning.’ ”

17. Boaz had done his homework, so he knew about the relative who was first in line, so he told Ruth that he had to give the first right of refusal to the nearest kinsman-redeemer, but if the relative didn't want to marry her, he would!
18. The account of Boaz meeting the kinsman-redeemer at the city gate where the elders could witness their conversation is found in [Ruth 4:1-12](#).
19. Look at what God did when he took a pagan, Gentile woman from Moab!
 - a. Ruth was a woman who was the descendant of an incestuous relationship.
 - b. Ruth was a woman whose people worshipped Chemosh through human sacrifice.
 - c. Ruth was a woman who didn't know God, love God, or worship God.
 - d. Ruth was a woman who was widowed, destitute, and hopeless.
 - e. God redeemed Ruth and placed her in the Messianic line as the great-grandmother of King David!
 - i. Twenty-seven generations after King David, Jesus Christ was born, a descendent of Ruth!
 - ii. Ruth is listed by name in the genealogical record of Jesus Christ in [Matthew 1:5](#).

The Redeeming Love Of God

20. The Lord is still in the business of taking people who have a sordid past or a hopeless present, and redeeming them!
21. Ruth represents all of us as a picture of humanity, because we are all estranged from God, with broken, sinful, and shameful pasts.
22. Boaz is a picture of Christ.
 - a. When Ruth came to Boaz and lay at his feet, she was basically saying, "Will you redeem me?"
 - b. Boaz came to survey his field; Jesus came to survey his field, the earth.
 - c. Boaz looked out and saw Ruth; Jesus saw us.
 - d. Boaz spoke kindly to Ruth; Jesus speaks kindly to us.
 - i. [Romans 2:4](#) - "It's his kindness that leads us to repentance."
(Paraphrase)
 - e. Ruth found favor in the eyes of Boaz; we find favor in the eyes of Jesus.
 - f. Boaz was a "kinsman-redeemer" to Ruth; Jesus stepped out of heaven and took on flesh to become our Kinsman Redeemer.

- g. Boaz went beyond the requirement of the law to redeem Ruth out of his love for her; Jesus went beyond the requirement of the Law to redeem us out of his love for us.
 - h. It cost Boaz something to pay the price to redeem Ruth; it cost Jesus everything, paying the price of dying on the cross to redeem us.
23. Charles Spurgeon referred to Jesus as “Our Glorious Boaz.”
24. [Job 19:25-27](#) - *“I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes - I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!”*

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [Ruth 2:19-23](#) and [Ruth 3:1-13](#) to provide an overview for this study.
3. Spend time talking about Pastor Gary’s statement that “you attract the kind of person you are.”
 - a. Read and discuss [1 Corinthians 15:33](#), which says, *“Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character.’ ”*
4. What are some of the life lessons you learned from the story of Ruth and Boaz?
5. Read and discuss [Job 19:25-27](#).
6. Close your time in prayer.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).