

# Kinsman-Redeemer

Message 03 of 04 in the series: "Ruth: A Story of Valor, True Love, and Redemption"

## A. Some helpful background information:

The story of Ruth is a love story that celebrates God's amazing providence in bringing together two godly people during a time when everyone "...did whatever seemed right in their own eyes." Judges 21:25b (NLT)

- Ruth was a woman of "heséd" (loyalty, faithfulness, and true love).
- Boaz was a man of "chayil" (a mighty man of valor, sterling character, and integrity).

The story of Ruth is also a story about how God providentially brought hope and blessing to Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law, even though she had chosen to become bitter and angry at God over the deaths of her husband and two sons. "'Don't call me Naomi,' she responded. 'Instead, call me Mara, for the Almighty has made life very bitter for me. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me home empty.'" Ruth 1:20-21a (NLT) Women at that time were dependent upon male family members to protect and provide for them, and widows without male family members likely faced extreme poverty and even starvation.

**Life Application:** God can do things that are impossible for us.

"Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21 (NLT)

## B. Naomi realized that God had providentially provided a way of rescue for both her and Ruth through Boaz, so she coached Ruth in how to ask Boaz to take her into his family.

"One day Naomi said to Ruth, 'My daughter, it's time that I found a permanent home for you, so that you will be provided for. Boaz is a close relative of ours, and he's been very kind by letting you gather grain with his young women. Tonight he will be winnowing barley at the threshing floor. Now do as I tell you—take a bath and put on perfume and dress in your nicest clothes. Then go to the threshing floor, but don't let Boaz see you until he has finished eating and drinking. Be sure to notice where he lies down; then go and uncover his feet and lie down there. He will tell you what to do.' 'I will do everything you say,' Ruth replied. So she went down to the threshing floor that night and followed the instructions of her mother-in-law. After Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he lay down at the far end of the pile of grain and went to sleep. Then Ruth came quietly, uncovered his feet, and lay down. Around midnight Boaz suddenly woke up and turned over. He was surprised to find a woman lying at his feet! 'Who are you?' he asked. 'I am your servant Ruth,' she replied. '**Spread the corner of your covering over me, for you are my family redeemer.**'" Ruth 3:1-9 (NLT)

*Note:* Ruth was asking Boaz to be her go'el (kinsman-redeemer). A kinsman-redeemer was a blood relative who could **buy back** family land or family members who had been sold into slavery during hard times. "If one of your fellow Israelites falls into poverty and is forced to sell some family land, then a close relative should buy it back for him... If any of your fellow Israelites fall into poverty and are forced to sell themselves... They may be **bought back** by a brother, an uncle, or a cousin. In fact, anyone from the extended family may buy them back." Leviticus 25:25 & 47b-49a (NLT)

*Note:* A kind & godly kinsman-redeemer could also fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law if he was willing. "If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her. The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother **so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel.**" Deuteronomy 25:5-6 (NIV)

**Life Application:** Jesus is our kinsman. "Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death." Hebrews 2:14 (NLT)

**Life Application:** Jesus is our redeemer. "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ..." 1 Peter 1:18-19a (NIV)

**Life Application:** If we place our faith in Jesus, He will rescue us from sin and death and give us a place in His family. "But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. **We are made right with God**

**by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.** For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood." Romans 3:21-25a (NLT)

**C. Boaz was more than willing to be a kinsman-redeemer for Ruth and Naomi, and he reassured Ruth that he would do all that was necessary to rescue her.**

"The Lord bless you, my daughter!' Boaz exclaimed. 'You are showing **even more family loyalty** now than you did before, for you have not gone after a younger man, whether rich or poor. Now don't worry about a thing, my daughter. I will do what is necessary, for everyone in town knows you are a virtuous woman. But while it's true that I am one of your family redeemers, there is another man who is more closely related to you than I am. Stay here tonight, and in the morning I will talk to him. If he is willing to redeem you, very well. Let him marry you. But if he is not willing, then as surely as the Lord lives, I will redeem you myself! Now lie down here until morning.' So Ruth lay at Boaz's feet until the morning, but she got up before it was light enough for people to recognize each other. For Boaz had said, 'No one must know that a woman was here at the threshing floor.' Then Boaz said to her, 'Bring your cloak and spread it out.' He measured six scoops of barley into the cloak and placed it on her back. Then he returned to the town. When Ruth went back to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, 'What happened, my daughter?' Ruth told Naomi everything Boaz had done for her, and she added, 'He gave me these six scoops of barley and said, "**Don't go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.**"' Then Naomi said to her, 'Just be patient, my daughter, until we hear what happens. **The man won't rest until he has settled things today.**"' Ruth 3:10-18 (NLT)

**Life Application:** We can trust that Jesus has done all that is necessary to rescue us permanently.

"And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him."

Ephesians 1:13b-14 (NLT)

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**Connect Group Questions:**

Read Ruth 3 and then discuss the following questions:

1. Why do you think Ruth and Naomi were willing to trust Boaz to rescue them?
2. Describe a time when someone in your family needed relatives to rescue them from a terrible situation/circumstance. How did your family respond?
3. What do the following Scripture passages teach us about the role of "kinsman-redeemers" in Israel?
  - Leviticus 25:24-38 & 47-55
  - Deuteronomy 25:5-10
4. What do the following Scripture passages teach us about Jesus being our "kinsman-redeemer"?
  - Hebrews 2:14-15, 4:15-16
  - 1 Peter 1:18-19
  - Romans 3:21-25
5. How does it make you feel to know that the Holy Spirit was given to us as a guarantee that Jesus will give us all that He promised? (Ephesians 1:13-14)
6. Discuss the following story:

*A young boy spent many hours building a little sailboat, crafting it down to the finest detail. He then took it to a nearby river to sail it. When he put it in the water, however, a strong wind and current carried the boat away. Though he chased it along the bank, he couldn't keep up with it. Farther down the river, another boy found the little boat, took it to town, and sold it to a shopkeeper. Sometime later, as the boy was walking through town, he noticed the boat in a store window. Entering the store, the boy explained that the boat belonged to him but he couldn't prove it, so the shopkeeper told him the only way he could*

*get the boat was to buy it. The boy wanted it back so badly that he did exactly that. As he took the boat from the hand of the shopkeeper, he looked at it and said, "Little boat, now you're twice mine. I made you and I bought you!"*

*How does this story help us understand redemption and what Jesus did for us on the cross?*