

Ruth #5**December 10, 2023****Series Title: Ruth: Painful Providence and Sovereign Grace****Today's Message: Boaz, the Redeemer!; Ruth 4:1-22**

One of the most soul satisfying truths found in Ruth is the evidence of the Sovereign hand of God working through divine providence. We said from the beginning of Ruth that it is often through painful providence that Sovereign God moves history, nations, and people. In fact, now that we are coming to the end of the book of Ruth perhaps you can fully verify that through painful providence God moved Naomi and Ruth back to Bethlehem in Judah. He moved them for their good and ultimately for His glory. And through all the events of Ruth— how Ruth just happens to glean in the field of Boaz, to God causing her to conceive a son in Ruth 4— God was arranging the ancestral line of His coming Messiah just as He willed! For, as we see at the end of Ruth 4, knowing what we know about the human ancestry of the Lord Jesus Christ, Ruth and Boaz are the ancestors of David, through whom the Son of God descended, taking on human nature (Romans 1:3).

If that were not enough, the book of Ruth illustrates the beauty of redemption. This is very important.

Redemption has to do with purchasing something which has been sold, lost or forfeited. For instance, someone may sell their freedom. For whatever reason, perhaps to pay a debt they would sell their body and their labor to the debt holder in order to pay off the debt. In another way, someone might lose their freedom, becoming subject to another person or nation stronger and more threatening than they can withstand. And, for freedom, they need another powerful person or people to intercede to win their freedom. Or, someone might forfeit their freedom. Through the misuse of their freedom, and by encroaching on the freedoms of others, crimes committed are punished by incarceration or other punitive measures. But it always involves some level of forfeiture of freedom. When freedom is forfeited it can only be regained through paying the debt in a manner that satisfies justice.

In the book of Ruth, both family land and family name are in peril. Naomi has either sold, or mortgaged some of the land belonging to her dead husband Elimelech and his heir and son Mahlon, Ruth's dead husband (see Ruth 4:10). If a redeemer, that is a close family member, does not intercede by interposing his wealth and desire to redeem Elimelech's land and family name, Naomi and Ruth will experience terrible loss, poverty and disgrace. But there is such a redeemer! It is not the nearest kinsman-redeemer, but the next nearest, and that is Boaz. He is willing to pay the purchase price to redeem Elimelech's land. And he is willing to marry Ruth in order for her to have a son to carry on her dead husband's family name in Judah of Israel! Boaz redeems the title and deed to the land, reclaiming it on Elimelech's behalf. And, he purchases a bride, his dearly loved Ruth, who bears a son to carry on the family name.

But the Bible tells us of a greater redeemer whose redemptive act surpasses that of Boaz. But before we look at that greater redeemer, we will look at Ruth 4 in three parts. 1) Boaz settles the matter to become the redeemer, 4:1-8. 2) Boaz redeems Naomi's land and acquires Ruth as his wife, 4:9-12. 3) God rules providentially causing Ruth to conceive and have a son named Obed, 4:13-22.

I. (4:1-8) Boaz settles the matter to become the redeemer**A. (1-2) Boaz initiates the public proceedings for the right of redemption****1. He went that day (see 3:18) to the town gate and sat down.****a) The city gate was where transactions and disputes were settled**

2. Boaz cordially invited the nearer kinsman to come and sit
 - a) Providence moved the man to happen by that morning!
3. Boaz gathered 10 of the town elders to come, sit and listen to the matter
 - a) This is called a *minyan*, or an assembly consisting of 10 men
 - (1) If there was not enough for a *minyan* a decision is not considered binding.
 - (2) In post-temple days, a *minyan* was required for a synagogue.
- B. (3-4) Boaz brings the matter of right of redemption before the kinsman and *minyan*.
 1. (v3) First, the matter of the redemption of Naomi's land.
 - a) He addresses the unnamed *kinsman*.
 - (1) The writer doesn't name him but uses a Hebrew idiom, which is like saying, "Mr So-n-So"
 - b) Confirming before the elders that the land had belonged to Elimelech
 - (1) Called a "brother".
 - (a) A general familial term for close male relatives.
 2. (v4) Boaz confirms the right of redemption first belongs to *Mr. So-n-So*.
 - a) Integrity of Boaz: "I suggest that you buy the land."
 - (1) Then Boaz affirms his desire if *Mr. So-n-So* says no.
 - b) But, *Mr. So-n-So* says, "Yes! I will redeem it."
- C. (5-8) Boaz either sweetens or sours the deal..
 1. Sweet or sour: You must marry Ruth in order to maintain the family name.
 - a) Family land was a sweet deal. Adding Ruth was sour. Why?
 - (1) Sour: Because if he married Naomi she could never have children, so as soon as she died the land would all be his and his childrens.
 - (2) If Ruth, then if she had a son, the son would inherit land, and even have a share in *Mr. So-n-So's* land. (Endanger his estate!)
 - b) At this, *Mr. So-n-So* declines, agreeing to give Boaz the right to redeem!
 2. The sandal sealed the deal for Boaz
 - a) Here, *Mr. So-n-So* declares, "Buy it yourself."
 - (1) Then, removed his sandal
 - (a) The surrender of a sandal was a public surrender of his rights to the land, and served to transfer rights to Boaz.
- D. Practical Application: Boaz provides a good example of integrity. Hold to your integrity in every transaction, and trust divine providence for the outcome!

II. (4:9-12) Boaz redeems Naomi's land and acquires Ruth as his wife

- A. The way is clear for Boaz to fulfill his promise to act as kinsman-redeemer (see 3:11)
 1. He redeems (purchases) the land from Naomi
 2. He *acquires* Ruth
 - a) But, we know that Boaz cares for Ruth deeply.
 - (1) Remember his record of provision and protection?
 - b) Ruth becomes his wife. And He intends to maintain the family name of Mahlon, and I presume Elimelech, too.

(1) "So that his name will not disappear from town records."

(a) He had in mind Deut. 25:6, "The first son shall carry the name so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel."

B. (11-12) The Elders and people heartily bless/ pray for Boaz and Ruth

1. The Blessing/ prayer for many children (like Racheal and Leah)

2. The Blessing/ prayer for becoming famous/ memorialized

a) Fame like that of Perez, from whom came the *Bethlehemites*!

b) Boaz and Ruth will always be memorialized as David's great ancestors.

c) Yes! And One greater than Perez, and greater than Boaz was coming whose fame would one day fill not only Bethlehem, but the heavens with His glory!

III. (4:13-22) God rules providentially causing Ruth to conceive and have a son named Obed

A. (v13) Ruth becomes the wife of Boaz

1. I'm confident that the ceremony was full of wonder and joy.

a) As Boaz spread the corner of his garment over her signifying His love, protection and provision.

(1) Boaz was God's means of reward for Ruth (SEE Ruth 2:12)

(a) Ruth first gave herself to God.

(b) Then, God gave his man to Ruth!

2. Notice: The Lord *enabled* Ruth to conceive, and give birth to a son.

a) The Lord had, presumably, kept her from conceiving while in Moab.

(1) At just the right time!

(a) At just the right time Ruth and Naomi came to Bethlehem

(b) At just the right time Ruth went into the field of Boaz

(c) At just the right time Ruth went to the threshing floor

(d) At just the right time Boaz settled the matter with *Mr. So-n-So*!

(e) At just the right time the Lord caused Ruth to conceive.

(2) Can you Trust God for His timing? What good and godly desires are nestled in your heart? Can you wait for His time and His ways and means to bring your desires to fruition?

(a) Sometimes the best answer is "no".

B. (14-17) The blessed and happy Naomi

1. The women lift up their hearts and voices in **doxology**! (glory words/ praise)

a) They praise the Lord from Whom all blessings flow!

b) They give thanks for the kinsman-redeemer

(1) Boaz or baby Obed (see the end of verse 15)

(a) Obed means, "servant"

(b) Yet, "may he become famous"

(i) Boaz is memorialized in Scripture

(ii) Obed is memorialized in Scripture

(c) Obed could care for Naomi in her old age.

(2) Could this statement contain **messianic overtones**?

2. The women delight in Naomi's happiness

a) They call Obed *Naomi's son*!

(1) They, the women, even name this baby, Obed, the servant!

C. (18-22) The greatest honor for Perez and Boaz

1. The fame of these Bethlehemites stretches into eternity as their names are recorded. God kept record.
 - a) From Perez, to Boaz, to David, to Messiah Jesus the son of David, Son of God!
2. This son, Jesus, the son of David and Son of God is the Greater Redeemer!

IV. Jesus, the son of David, Son of God, the Greater Redeemer

The Lord Jesus is the greater redeemer. To understand this we have to take a wide, panoramic look at the story as presented in Scripture. Adam, our first father, sinned by rebelling against God. In one act of disobedience he sold, lost and forfeited the deed and title to earth, which had been given him by God. God had given Adam the right and authority to take dominion of the earth. But, in a moment of unbelief, having believed the lie of the serpent, he willingly handed over the title and deed of the earth to "that ancient serpent called the devil. So, Adam lost the land. But, equally as shocking, Adam forfeited his life and pleasant fellowship with God. Adam plunged himself and his offspring into spiritual darkness, becoming naturally at enmity with God. Hopeless and depraved mankind, through Adam, became a race without God and without hope in the world. And, the earth became subject to decay and corruption, groaning, waiting for a redeemer who would come and set the sons of God free from their subjection to the world, the flesh and the devil!

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love for us, at just the right time sent His Son into the world. He, the eternal Son, the Word of God, became flesh and made His dwelling among us! Whereas through Adam all men died, through Christ salvation came to all men. Unlike Adam, our Lord Jesus knew no sin, yet God made Him become the sacrifice of propitiation, so that by God's grace, through faith in Him we might be counted with His righteousness, never to be condemned. In Him we have redemption through faith in His blood, the forgiveness of sins, and Life everlasting! Like Ruth, who called upon Boaz to act as her redeemer, everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved! It is Jesus, the great Redeemer, who redeems your life from the pit, and crowns you with love and compassion both now and forevermore!

And, it is the Lord Jesus who will redeem the land. The book of Revelation is a record of the mighty king coming to reclaim the title and deed of the earth from the usurper, the devil, and casting him into eternal fire of judgment! And He, King Jesus, will reign forever and ever with His bride in the New Heaven and the New Earth.

Would you receive Him as your Redeemer today? Would you, like Ruth, have Him spread the corner of His garment over you today, becoming His beloved loved one through faith?