

## Day 38

- Good Morning! It is great to be back with you all. These last few days have been packed full of studying and completing the first part of my Bible course. And yes, yesterday I truly did rest and break from work and study, and it was nice to take that time.
- I hope all of you were able to take some time and let the Hebrew word *chesed* soak into the very core of you, having a better understanding of just how great God's love is for us, that everything He does is through His love of us. And if you don't know what I'm talking about, please go back to Day 37 and listen or read it; because it was a true *rhema* word to me from the LORD.
- So, we left off in Ruth, where Boaz had just told her he will do what she has requested. And early in the morning before the light of day, he gives her six ephahs of barley for her to take back to her mother-in-law, Naomi. Now, I looked up ephah, and it said it was equivalent to about a bushel. I looked up the weight of a bushel of grain, and it said roughly 60 pounds... Ummm, I think maybe the math is off somewhere. Because if it is accurate, then Boaz gave her 360 pounds of barley. How in the world would she carry that much grain in her shawl? Okay, so we will just assume he gave her quite a bit of barley, almost like a bridal purse amount — even though, in that time, father's paid the male suitor to marry the daughter.
- But if we look at Boaz as an example of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Bridegroom, of course Boaz gave her a bridal gift. Jesus paid with His life to have us as His Bride.
- And we also have to remember that everything is a seed. Jesus giving His life for us is a seed; And what is the harvest of that seed? Every single person who chooses Him as Savior and Lord, coming into eternal life with Him; gaining life and destroying death. Boaz was not just giving Ruth 6 ephahs of barley for food; he was giving her thousands and thousands of seeds, which she could plant in the very field he had pledge to buy back for her as her Kinsman Redeemer.
- Upon seeing the blessing of Boaz and hearing all that had transpired with him from Ruth, Naomi assures her to wait patiently, "until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day." Ruth 3:18.
- "Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by." Ruth 4:1. Now, let me share two things here to help us with understanding. It was very normal for well respected, wealthy Hebrew men to sit at the gate of the city and discuss matters with each other. That is also where they made deals and discussed the things of the LORD. Second, I want you to look at the word "behold" because it is a very important word in scripture; a word that has lost much of his strength of meaning in our day and age. "Behold" in scripture means to look and stick to like adhesive, and look with bifocals. So, when scripture says "behold," we need to really pay attention.
- So, "behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by." God is saying, this is not just a happenstance. The LORD brought the man by that day, so Boaz could settle the matter with Ruth. Let's see how cleverly Boaz handles the situation. And I hope you see the amazing intent of his heart before I explain it.
- "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down. And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." Ruth 4:1-2. It is important here to note that the other kinsman redeemer became immediately aware that Boaz was going to discuss a legal matter because he brought among them 10 city elders. 10 represents law and order in Hebrew culture; the amount of witnesses you would need to discuss a legal matter. For God, 10 is a big deal — it has to do with timelines and where God reveals His plan and sets things into perfect order. (Numbers that Preach, Troy A. Brewer).
- Boaz said, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold a piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech. And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you.'" Ruth 4:3-4.

- The man agrees to redeem it. Then Boaz said, “On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance.” And the close relative said, “I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance.” Ruth 4:5-6.
- You may be asking, “Heidi, what just happened here?” I’m so glad you asked! Because the answer is A LOT!
  - Okay, let’s unpack it. First, we see that Boaz is brilliant. He knew the other close relative would be very interested in the land; why wouldn’t he? So Boaz just tells him about the land first, in front of 10 city elders and anyone else who might be listening.
  - Second, we see that for Boaz, the real prize is Ruth, but for the other relative, she is seen as a liability. And Boaz knew that was how the man would see it, so he wisely offered the land first in front of witnesses, a legal number, mind you, and then when the man accepted in front of them, Boaz drops the last part. The man is caught in front of witnesses.
  - Why doesn’t he want to buy the land from Ruth? Well, what Boaz is actually telling him is in buying the land, the close relative must marry Ruth and give her an heir (a son) to carry on the line of Elimelech, “to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance.”
  - Third, remember when I told you that tribes marry within tribes in Israel, so they don’t possibly lose their land to another tribe or worse lose it outside Israel all together, which isn’t redeemable by Hebrew law? So, not only would the man, in giving Ruth a son, not have an heir through her for his own lands, he would also be bound to her by law, and if he died without a legal heir of his own, everything would go to Ruth and to her son which would be legally Elimelech’s son. Not to mention, if Ruth decided, she could keep the land because she is technically not a Hebrew; she is a Moabite. By Hebrew law, it is not redeemable if she didn’t want to sell it back.
  - Fourth, the relative does not want to marry Ruth because she IS a Moabite, and to marry a Moabite is seen as a disgrace.
- So, I want us all to see that what was true for the close relative was true for Boaz as well. Boaz knew that his first born with Ruth would be equated as her dead husband’s child, and that if they only had one child, all of Boaz’s wealth would be transferred to that child upon his death. But, as our beautiful representation as Jesus our Redeemer, Boaz saw the prize to be Ruth, to bring her in as his wife; the land and the name meant nothing; where she came from meant nothing to him because he had seen her heart in the days she spent working with his young women in the fields. His heart and desire to graft her into the line of Jesus Christ was prophetic; for God Himself was saying, I see her, I see her heart, and I want her to be my representation of the gentiles I will graft into Myself upon the death and resurrection of my Son Jesus, the Great Redeemer.
- Boaz could see in Ruth who she was, and I believe he knew from the LORD that she was chosen to be brought in; Boaz had his eyes opened to the amazing, redemptive heart of God through his mother Rahab, a once harlot, who heard the call of the LORD and answered it by hiding two Hebrew men in her home, that was once in the walls of Jericho.
- Again, God’s perfectly woven in plan shines through, and we cannot help but see it for all its beauty and splendor! How great is our God, who takes away the sin of the world, planned for us to be His children from the beginning, places doors, windows, people, and events in our lives as ways back to Him. He is GREAT indeed!!
- Until tomorrow, I bless you with the peace of God that surpasses all understanding, guarding your hearts and your minds through Christ Jesus. Be encouraged, for greater love has no man than to lay down His life for another. Jesus’ love is perfect and all we will ever need. If you haven’t asked Him to be your Savior and Lord yet, just say, “Lord Jesus, I want You to

come into my life and cleanse me from all my sin. I believe You are the Son of God, that You died for me and rose from the grave to remove the harvest of sin in my life forever. I want You to be the Lord of my life and to direct me in all my ways. Thank You, in Jesus Name, Amen.”

- If you just said that prayer out loud, meaning it with your heart, you are saved for all eternity. Because, “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Romans 10:13. The name of the Lord is Jesus!