

Ruth part 5

INTRODUCTION

It's been a swift but I hope beneficial journey through the first three chapters of Ruth and tonight we come to the final chapter, ch 4.

We saw in chapter 1, hard times falling upon Naomi and her family. God's bitter providence in her life as she experiences famine, the death her husband and then her two sons. ...

Naomi is left in a place where she says *"The Lord's hand has gone out against me . . . the Lord Almighty has made my life very bitter."*

But things begin to improve:

1. The lifting of the famine from Israel
2. The opening of a way home for Naomi.
3. The provision of an amazingly devoted and loving daughter-in-law to accompany her.

(PAUSE)

We ended ch1 with devoted Ruth and bitter Naomi settling in Bethlehem.

In **chapter 2** we saw the mercy of God breaking through, to the degree that even Naomi could see it...at last.

The apparent “coincidences” – Ruth arriving to glean in the field of a relative.

We met Boaz, a man of wealth, a man of God, and a relative of Naomi's late husband.

We saw the protection of and provision for Ruth through Boaz.

We saw Naomi bounce back from her despondency as she says in v20 *“The Lord bless Boaz, he has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead.”*

Chapter 2 ended on a high note.

In chapter 3 last night we saw the greatest foreshadowing in all of the book of Ruth as we considered the role of the Kinsman redeemer looking at the responsibilities of the Levir and the goel and seeing just how beautifully the goel, the Kinsman redeemer points us to Christ.

The Kinsman redeemer had to be related by blood, had to be able to pay the price and had to be willing:

Ours Kinsman redeemer has come, his name is Jesus

So the question we were left with last night is – ‘will Boaz redeem Ruth – he’s willing, but there is one

closer to the family than Boaz. Will he redeem Elimelek's land? If he will not do it Boaz will.

LET'S READ...

RUTH CH 4

READ

[1] Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat there. When the kinsman-redeemer he had mentioned came along, Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down. [2] Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so. [3] Then he said to the kinsman-redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our brother Elimelech. [4] I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line." "I will redeem it," he said. [5] Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi and from Ruth the Moabitess, you acquire the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property." [6] At this, the kinsman-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it." [7] (Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.) [8] So the kinsman-redeemer

said to Boaz, "Buy it yourself." And he removed his sandal. [9] Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion and Mahlon. [10] I have also acquired Ruth the Moabitess, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from the town records. Today you are witnesses! " [11] Then the elders and all those at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. [12] Through the offspring the Lord gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah." [13] So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. [14] The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! [15] He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth." [16] Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him. [17] The women living there said, "Naomi has a son." And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David. [18] This, then, is the family line of Perez : Perez was the father of Hezron, [19] Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, [20] Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, [21] Salmon the father

of Boaz, Boaz the father of Obed, [22] Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David.

PRAY

MAIN SECTION

After Ruth left Boaz before daylight in chapter 3, Boaz went to the town gate where the official business was done.

He had gone to do what he promised Ruth he would do – he had gone to the kinsman redeemer first in line (the closer kinsman) to see if he wanted to redeem Elimelek’s land which Naomi was selling. If he did that would be fine, but if he did not want to redeem then Boaz would do it.

Well in v2 the closer kinsman Boaz had mentioned, came (we’re not told his name). Boaz, the closer kinsman and ten of the elders sat down and Boaz begins to explain the situation to them.

Boaz says to the closer kinsman in v4:

‘I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line.’

And to our dismay the closer kinsman says at the end of verse 4, *"I will redeem it."*

We don't want him to redeem it!

We want Boaz to do it!

...And just when we are about to say, *"O no! Stop the story! Don't let him do it!"*

Boaz says to the nearer kinsman in v5

"You remember, don't you...on the day you buy the land from Naomi and from Ruth the Moabitess, you acquire the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property"

And to our great relief, the kinsman after being reminded about this says in verse 6

"Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it"

He forgot the widow came as part of the package.

He presumed that the purchase of the land would simply be an addition to his estate but that would not be the case because it would belong to the son that he bore Ruth.

It seems this closer kinsman was more concerned about himself and his wealth than the wellbeing of Ruth and Naomi. He's very different to Boaz.

...he was not willing to take up his responsibility as kinsman redeemer, therefore He could not be the kinsman redeemer ...(pause)...it wasn't enough just to be a relative who could pay the price, he had to be willing...and he was not...

...Boaz was

In v7 we're reminded of the traditional method of sealing a transaction with the exchange of a sandal...

And in V8 the closer kinsman says to Boaz:

"Buy it yourself" and he removed his sandal.

And we're all cheering in the background! Happy days!! Boys O that was a close one (Hands up and down!)

And Boaz announced to elders and all the people:

"Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon (Naomi's husband and two sons). [10] I have also acquired Ruth the Moabitess, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from the town records. Today you are witnesses!"

[11] Then the elders and all those at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is

coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. [12] Through the offspring the Lord gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah."

Through Rachel and Leah and their maidservants came all of the twelve tribes of Israel.

But there is a cloud overhead. Things are not straightforward in this area.

It seems Ruth is barren.

She's was married for up to ten years to Mahlon and there are no children.

(PAUSE)

In v13 we read:

...Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.

God granted Ruth the ability to have a child

For only the second time, we are reading of God in this book.

[APP](#)

When it seems that God is absent in your life, take comfort...he's not. He's actually right in the midst of it if you have trusted him – coordinating, shaping, guiding every last detail...he's intimately involved.

The truth is, when He seems distant, it's you who have taken the step away, not God. He works continually in the life of the believer to bring about his ultimately good purposes.

(PAUSE)

[14] The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel!

[15] He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth."

[16] Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him. [17] The women living there said, "Naomi has a son." And they named him Obed

(PAUSE)

If this story of Ruth just ended in a little Judean village with an old grandmother hugging a new grandson, it would just be a great story which reveals the providence and provision of God.

But the author doesn't leave it there.

He lifts his eyes from the story and points us to the bigger picture as he ends the book.

In verse 17 he says very simply that this child Obed was the father of Jesse and Jesse was the father of David.

... something far greater has been in the offing than we could imagine.

God was not only working things out to bring blessing of an old lady named Naomi and a Moabite woman in Bethlehem...he was doing so much more through all that we've seen this week.

He was preparing a way for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

This simple little story opens out like a river into a great sea of hope.

(PAUSE)

Through Ruth comes David and through David comes Jesus.

God had ordained that Ruth would come back with Naomi, meet Boaz and provide offspring that would ultimately lead to Christ.

APP

If you're tempted to think you're not much use to God, insignificant...think again. Look at Ruth, a Moabite woman of all things! If God can use her in this incredible way then he can use you to...provided you

show the same obedience and commitment to God that Ruth did.

(PAUSE)

Jesus is the great redeemer. He brings, through his death and resurrection, the redemption we all need, the forgiveness of our sins.

And for those who have believed in Jesus, the best is yet to come.

No more tears etc...

(PAUSE)

CONCLUSION

And so we have come to the end of our series in Ruth, this love story.

The Book of Ruth is a different kind of love story than we are used to.

It's not a story about a boy meeting a girl, in which both are physically attracted to one another and the rest is a history of kissing and living life through a romantic haze.

The two of them aren't exactly the typical Hollywood hero and heroine – a girl who can carry 36kg of grain and an older man.

But the commitment that Ruth and Boaz had to one another was built on their common character...that's always a much better foundation for a lasting relationship than mere physical attraction.

Theirs was a character match.

The real love story in this book is not about Boaz and Ruth...the real love story lays behind it all.

One commentator says this:

The real love story is the love of God for his straying sheep. It is the love that prevented him from simply ending the world when Adam and Eve first sinned. It is the love that chose and called Abraham and then persisted in pursuing his rebellious offspring. It is the love that would not let them go, in spite of their centuries-long history of rebellion and idolatry. This love causes the sun to shine and the rain to fall. In the lives of God's children, this love feeds us our daily food and clothes us. In his providence, his love MAY bring us godly friends to encourage us and a godly spouse with whom to share our lives. For all of these good gifts of God's love, we should be truly thankful.

BUT This love took on its fullest shape in the coming of Jesus Christ. His love for us took him much further than a grain pile at midnight. It caused him to leave the glories of heaven and come as a baby to Bethlehem, where he found no refuge. Unlike Ruth there was no place of rest for Jesus in Bethlehem. Instead he had to make do with a temporary place in a stable...The love

of God caused Jesus to abandon his eternal glory and become a servant, someone of no reputation, despised and rejected by men.

This same love of God took Jesus all the way to the cross. There in the midst of the darkness far deeper than any ordinary midnight, he offered himself up for the sins of his people. There he was abandoned by God the Father, because he could not look upon his own Son as he bore our sin. God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life.

(PAUSE)

Are you part of this love story? It's the greatest love story in the history of mankind.

Have you been redeemed and received into his family.

Are you covered by his wings, protected and provided for by God?

No matter what you've done, what decisions and choices you have made, where you've been, the providence of God has brought you here tonight to hear this message, the invitation is here to come to him and be redeemed.

LET'S PRAY