



## *Repentance Tabernacle Church*

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### **Ruth and Boaz!**

**Lesson Text:** Ruth 1-4

**Focus Verses:** Ruth 2:11-12 - <sup>11</sup>And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother-in-law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore. <sup>12</sup>The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.

**Truth About Covenant:** God's plan was always to come in flesh to redeem us.

**Covenant Context:** Decades after living in the Promised Land, Israel suffered a severe famine that drove a man named Elimelech and his family to Moab. When his widow returned to Bethlehem with her Moabitess daughter-in-law named Ruth, God provided a husband and provider for her and included her in the lineage of Jesus Christ. The Book of Ruth demonstrates that once again God was extending His covenant beyond Israel's borders.

Naomi's bitterness could have derailed the entire plan. Despite Naomi's suffering, Ruth saw something special about her and her God. Ruth pledged her loyalty to Naomi, covenanting with her and creating the foundation for God's covenant He would soon make with David. Naomi only looked at the situation from her own limited perspective. She failed to see the possibilities Ruth presented. Ruth was young enough to bear a child, and Ruth's child would count as the seed of Naomi. In a way, Ruth could redeem Naomi.

Naomi spoke of going out of Israel full, only for the Almighty to bring her home empty. But she did not return empty; the Lord gave her a most precious gift. In God's faithfulness, He gave her faithful Ruth, and Ruth was still able to bear a child to bless Naomi in her old age. The woman who felt she had nothing walked next to the divine gift of Ruth who could change everything.

Like Naomi, we will face times of suffering. Not all problems arise from sin; some problems are just life. We must be careful to avoid the bitterness of Naomi and allow God to redeem us even in the midst of our suffering. During these times, we may rant, rave, moan, lament, and loathe our lives. However, we must eventually dry our tears and blink past our clouded vision to see the plan and purpose of our covenant God. We may find help in the most unexpected place. If Ruth could help save Naomi in her darkest hour, we can allow God's power to work through us in any situation.

When Ruth first went to the fields for food, the Bible reveals the divinely-inspired circumstances that led her to Boaz's field, stating her "hap" was to light on Boaz's field (Ruth 2:3). God was guiding Ruth and Boaz the entire time. Naomi was overjoyed when she discovered who Boaz really was. Jewish law provided for a close relative to step forward and "rescue" someone or their property when they seemed to have no other options and known as the kinsman-redeemer. The nearest kinsman did not want Ruth because it would endanger his own inheritance. Therefore, Boaz became the kinsman-redeemer for Naomi and Ruth by marrying the Moabitess. Three generations later, their lineage would eventually give rise to King David and later to the King of kings, Jesus Christ.

To inherit God's covenant promises, we must enter a monogamous relation with Him. We cannot serve God and money. We cannot love the values of our world and fully love the Lord. We cannot set our affection on earthly things; we must set our affection on heavenly things (Matthew 6:24; 1 John 2:15; Colossians 3:2). Ruth's ethnicity did not exclude her from the promises of God, neither should anything in our background exclude us from being part of the kingdom of God. While others might have viewed Ruth as an outsider, the Almighty saw her as an insider, an integral part of His plan and purpose to redeem the world.

Jesus is our kinsman-redeemer. He paid our debts and redeemed us from destruction, but Jesus paid with more than silver and gold; He redeemed us with His own blood and restored what sin stole from us in the Garden of Eden. God has always loved us—which is why He invites us into a covenant with Him. He *"made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men"* (Philippians 2:7). Since Jesus became our Redeemer, we call on His name in repentance. We are baptized in the name of Jesus and begin to bear His name as a sign of being in covenant with Him.

If we pledge our loyalty to God, He promises to eternally redeem, restore, and provide for us. Doing so requires humbling ourselves and being more concerned about exalting the name of Jesus than strengthening our own reputation.