

ORDINARY FAITHFULNESS

JESUS: OUR KINSMAN REDEEMER

The Need for a Kinsman Redeemer

Ruth 1:1-5 Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons. **2** And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there. **3** And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons. **4** And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years. **5** And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.

Ruth 1:19-21 So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi? **20** And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. **21** I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?

- The book of Ruth opens during the period of the Judges, they had no king and they did whatever they saw fit
- In Ruth 1:
 - There is a famine in the land
 - Elimelech, Naomi, and their two sons (Mahlon and Kilion) leave Bethlehem to go to Moab for food
 - Elimelech dies
 - Mahlan and Kilion die
- Naomi returns to Bethlehem empty
- Ruth chooses to follow Naomi, vs. 16-17
- Naomi and Ruth are:
 - Widows
 - They own no property
 - They have no male support or defender
 - They have no future
- And furthermore, Ruth was a Moabite, an outsider
- Before Jesus Christ, all of humanity shared Naomi and Ruth's condition
 - Spiritually bankrupt
 - Emotionally broken
 - Eternally separated from God
 - Unable to rescue yourself
- We can't redeem ourselves
- We can:
 - Look full and still be empty
 - Look strong and still be struggling
 - Look well connected and still be alone
- Emptiness is a spiritual condition
- We are helpless without a redeemer

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The Qualifications of a True Redeemer

Ruth 2:1 And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.

Ruth 3:9-13 And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman. 10 And he said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich. 11 And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman. 12 And now it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I. 13 Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, as the LORD liveth: lie down until the morning.

- Boaz enters the story as a kinsman (Hebrew word *goel*), to be a legitimate kinsman, the person must meet three requirements
 - A close blood relative
 - A man of character (willing)
 - Able to pay the price
- God established the Kinsman Redeemer Law so that land could be stored, the couldn't be taken advantage of, and family lineage could be preserved ***Leviticus 25:25 If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold.***
- This wasn't just a social safety net is was theology in action
- God was:
 - Teaching redemption before revealing Jesus, the Redeemer
- Jesus meets all three requirements perfectly:
 - Close blood relative ***John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us..."***
 - Willing to act ***Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.***
 - Able to pay the price ***John 10:18 "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again..."***
- Ruth approaches Boaz and says, "...spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman."
- Ruth is asking for *protection, provision and redemption*
- Ruth's request is a picture of what Jesus would ultimately do for us
- As humans we have limitations:
 - We're all sinners
 - We're spiritually bankrupt
 - We can't pay the debt we ourselves owe
- It's impossible for another person to be our kinsman redeemer
 - We lack the sinlessness

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- We lack sufficient value
- We lack divine authority
- That's why Jesus had to be:
 - *Fully human* (to represent us)
 - *Fully God* (to have the worth to redeem us)
- Only Jesus meets all the requirements to be our kinsman redeemer
- Jesus is the only One *qualified* to redeem us from the *spiritual distress* we're in

The Cost of Redemption

Ruth 4:3-6 ³ Then he said to the close relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech. ⁴ 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.' " And he said, "I will redeem it." ⁵ Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabite, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance." ⁶ And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

- In Ruth 4, Boaz goes to the city gate to meet with the close relative who had right to redeem the land from Naomi and redeem Ruth
- When Boaz said, On the day you buy the land from Naomi and from Ruth, you also get the dead man's widow, in order to continue the name of the dead man with his property
- When the closer relative heard that, he said, "I can't redeem it because it will endanger my own estate"
- Boaz stepped up and was *willing and able* to sacrifice his own comfort and resources for Ruth's sake
- Boaz *publicly* redeemed Ruth:
 - He pays full price
 - Takes Ruth to be his bride
 - Restores Naomi's and future
- Jesus was not forced to the cross, He *chose* it, **John 10:18 "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself..."**
- Jesus is the greater redeemer
- Jesus paid a *much higher* price:
 - It was not silver or gold
 - Not with effort
 - Jesus paid with His blood **1 Peter 1:18-19 NIV 18 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, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.**
- Grace is free to us, but *never* cheap
- Jesus paid it all, and He PAID IT IN FULL!
- You don't have "to work" for redemption, you *receive* redemption
- Jesus:

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- Stepped up
- Took your place
- Paid the price
- Your redemption was purchased at a price you could never afford

Redemption Restores and Rewrites the Story

Ruth 4:13-17 So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: ...17 And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

- Ruth's story ends with:
 - Marriage - Boaz marries Ruth
 - **Ruth 4:13 "So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife..."**
 - Ruth moves from "outsider" to *bride*
 - Marriage represents covenant, covering, and commitment
 - Boaz didn't just help Ruth, he brought her into relationship
 - This points to Jesus:
 - We are not just rescued
 - We are brought into relationship with Him
 - Restoration - Emptiness becomes fulness
 - **Ruth 4:14-15 "The Lord has not left you this day without a redeemer..."**
 - Naomi, once said, "I am empty" (Ruth 1:21)
 - Don't call me Naomi, call me Mara (bitter)
 - But now, Naomi is holding a grandson
 - For Naomi, joy replaces bitterness
 - God restores what was lost
 - Only God can take your "Mara" (bitter) and turn it back into "Naomi" (pleasant/sweet).
 - Legacy
 - **Ruth 4:16-17, 18-22 "They called his name Obed... He is the father of Jesse, the father of David."**
 - Ruth gives birth to Obed
 - Obed becomes:
 - Father of Jesse
 - Grandfather of David
 - This family line leads to Jesus Christ
 - Ruth thought she was just "surviving" building a lineage
- You may think you're in a small story, but God is writing something much bigger.
- Because of Jesus:
 - We have *marriage* - We are the Bride of Christ
 - We have *restoration* - Our sins are forgiven and our lives renewed
 - We have *legacy* - We are part of God's eternal kingdom
- That's what our Kinsman Redeemer does, He gives you a relationship, restores your life, and rewrites your legacy