

VII. I WILL REDEEM YOU: Ruth 3:1-18

BIG IDEA: The theme of Ruth chapter 3 is *first* the Redemption of Ruth and Naomi. Naomi *plotted* for redemption, Ruth *plead* for redemption, and Boaz *promised* redemption. **Secondly**, this chapter points us to the Redemption of all sinners who are united to Jesus by faith. There are shadows here which look like our perfect Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ!

I. NAOMI PLOTTED FOR REDEMPTION (vv. 1-5)

Ruth 3:1-5 **1** Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, should I not seek REST for you, that it may be well with you? **2** Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you were? See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. **3** Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. **4** But when he lies down, observe the place where he lies. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do." **5** And she replied, "All that you say I will do."

- At the very least Naomi is putting Ruth in a dangerous position!

I) Motive and method both matter; having a pure motive does not excuse promoting or practicing impure actions.

- **Proverbs 16:2** "All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit."
- Remember Uzzah in 2 Samuel 6! Were his motives not pure? They were! But his actions were in error.
- **2 Samuel 6:6-7** "6 Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. 7 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the ark of God."
- What is required of you is not simply a right motive or right actions; what is required is right actions out front with right motives behind.
- **Q.** Did Naomi pass that test? **Q.** Do you?

II) Even God's people may give you ungodly advice, therefore watch out and test everything with the Word.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:20-22** "**20** Do not despise prophecies, **21** but test everything; hold fast what is good. **22** Abstain from every form of evil."
- **CHILDREN:** Even Jesus' people may give you bad advice. You need to

believe what you believe and do what you do because the Word of God is clear. Boys and girls, this question is one that you must ask your entire life: **Q. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THIS?**

II. RUTH PLEAD FOR REDEMPTION (vv. 6-9)

Ruth 3:6-9 "6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her. 7 And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down. 8 At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! 9 He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer."

– Psalm 57:1-3

"1 Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,
for in you my soul takes refuge;
in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,
till the storms of destruction pass by.

2 I cry out to God Most High,
to God who fulfills his purpose for me.

3 He will send from heaven and save me;
he will put to shame him who tramples on me. *Selah*
God will send out his [lovingkindness] and his faithfulness!"

I) There must be a cutting off of your old way of life when Jesus redeems you (v.9)

- Ruth does not act like a Moabitess! She has crucified the flesh along with its desires.
- **Galatians 5:24** "And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."
- **Galatians 2:20** "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."
- **Q.** Is there a stark difference between who you were and who you are before and after Jesus saved you? If so, praise God! If not, why? Are you converted? Have you forsaken your sin and embraced Christ Jesus alone?

II) See in Ruth a great example of how to approach Jesus in faith (v.9)

- **Luke 16:16** "the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it."
- **Like the Canaanite woman in Matthew 15 who kept saying to Jesus,** "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely

oppressed by a demon." **23** But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." **24** He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." **25** But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." **26** And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." **27** She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." **28** Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

- **Q.** Have you pressed into the Kingdom like that, with rightness assertiveness?

III. BOAZ PROMISED REDEMPTION (vv. 10-18)

I) Boaz swore an oath to redeem Ruth at any cost! (vv. 12-13)

Ruth 3:12-13 "**12** And now it is true that I AM A REDEEMER. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I. **13** Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, as the Lord lives, I WILL REDEEM YOU. Lie down until the morning."

II) Boaz pronounced blessings from the LORD on Ruth (v. 10)

Ruth 3:10 "And he said, 'May you be BLESSED by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich.'"

- **Q.** Do you see how Naomi did not need to plot?

III) Boaz quieted the fears of Ruth with promises! (v. 11)

Ruth 3:11 "And now, my daughter, DO NOT FEAR. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman."

IV) Boaz cared about the purity of Ruth! (v. 14)

Ruth 3:14 "So she lay at his feet until the morning, but arose before one could recognize another. And he said, 'LET IT NOT BE KNOWN THAT THE WOMAN CAME TO THE THRESHING FLOOR!'"

- **CHILDREN:** This is what a good man looks like. He cares about purity and obeying the commands of God in the Bible.

V) Boaz provided far beyond the needs of Ruth and Naomi! (vv. 15-17)

Ruth 3:15-17 "15 And he said, 'Bring the garment you are wearing and hold it out.' So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley and put it on her. Then she went into the city. 16 And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "How did you fare, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her, 17 saying, "These six measures of barley HE GAVE TO ME, for he said to me, 'You must not go back empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'"

VI) Boaz did not rest until Ruth was redeemed! (v. 18)

Ruth 3:18 "She replied, 'Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for THE MAN WILL NOT REST but will settle the matter today.'"

Q. DID YOU SEE THE SHADOW OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WALKING AROUND THIS CHAPTER? DID YOU SEE HOW BOAZ ULTIMATELY POINTS US TO THE SON OF GOD, OUR REDEEMER? Every story leaves us longing for or flat out seeing him in shadows and types! **Consider Christ with me and feast on Him by faith from Ruth 3.**

I) Like Boaz, The Lord Jesus has sworn an oath to Redeem you who believe no matter the cost!

- **Isaiah 59:20** "...a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,' declares the LORD."
- **Q.** What did it cost Him? **A.** Everything; it cost Him everything to redeem you from your sin!
- **Ephesians 1:7** "In him we have redemption through his blood"
 - **CHILDREN:** In the Lord's Supper we remember Jesus' death for our sins. But did you know Jesus made a promise when we first at this supper with His disciples? He swore an oath. "I will not drink this again until I drink it anew with you in the kingdom of God."

II) Like Boaz, Christ pronounces blessings from the LORD on His people!

- **Ephesians 1:3,6** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. . . to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved."
 - **If you are in Christ or if you would even now turn to Him in faith, He has blessed you with election, holiness, blamelessness, predestination, adoption, kindness, redemption, forgiveness, richly lavished grace, the revelation of the mystery of God's will, an inheritance, the Holy Spirit, and He has blessed you with security and**

assurance! (and those are just the blessings mentioned in Ephesians 1:3-14!)

- **Qsaints.** Have you been blessed by Christ Jesus? Oh then praise His name you saints and glorify Him in all aspects of this life He has given you!
- **Qsinners.** Are you without these blessings? Oh then you must go to Christ right now and confess your sins, trust in Him alone to remove your sin by His death and save by His resurrection, and be baptized in water because He commands you to be if your faith is in Him!

III) Like Boaz, **Jesus quiets your fears with His promises!**

- **Luke 12:32** "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."
- **Matthew 12:20** "a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench"
- **Q.** And who is this promise maker? **A.** He is the one who says,
- "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."

Revelation 1:17-18

- **CHILDREN: Did you know Jesus has the keys to death and hell?** He beat up death when He died for sinners and then resurrected to eternal life. He has power over death and He has promised that if you trust in Him, you will have eternal life!
- Beloved, the one who died for sin and arose for the salvation of His people, the one who holds the keys of death and hell, has promised He will not break you. He has promised blessing and not curse.

IV) Like Boaz, **The Son of God cares about your purity!**

- **Titus 2:14** "who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works."
- **Q.** Do you spurn the death of Christ by embracing impure thoughts and impure actions? If so, that must be why you are so unhappy. Jesus died to make you pure, beloved. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

V) Like Boaz, **The Lord Jesus Christ provides far beyond your needs!**

- **John 1:16** "For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."
- **Q.** Do you feel as though you are running on empty concerning God's grace?
- Look to Christ in faith and ask God's help in His name, then from the river of His grace your cup will overflow!

- **Romans 5:20** "where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,"
 - **Q.** Do you feel as though your sins are ever before you, like the waters are up to your neck?
 - Then confess your sins to God in Jesus' name, behold Christ's satisfaction on the cross anew, and you will find the float of grace will always raise you above the waters of your indwelling sin!

VI) Like Boaz, Christ did not rest until His work of redemption was finished!

- **Hebrews 10:11-13** "11 And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet."

The Lord Jesus looks at you even now and says, "I am a redeemer!"

Do you kneel before Him in faith and say, "Cover me with your wings"?

Oh do it for the first time now and be saved or the thousandth time and be sanctified—bow before Him and plead His redeeming power—He is willing to save and sanctify you!

Application

) Marriage is a picture of the gospel

- **Rest.**
- A godly husband gives rest to his wife by protecting, providing for, and washing her with the water of the Word.
- The God-man Jesus gives rest in the same ways but far greater; He protects, provides for, sanctifies, and will one day glorify His people. "Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest."

) Boaz redeems Ruth at any cost!

CONCLUSION: Boaz and Ruth's marriage is one step further a picture of the gospel than ours. Boaz redeemed Ruth, just like the Lord Jesus redeems His people!

- **Boaz Redeemed Ruth through buying back her lost *stuff* with *money* and taking her as His wife; Jesus redeems His church by buying back our lost souls with *His blood* and taking us as His bride.**
- **Boaz said in effect,** "I will make certain, Ruth, you are redeemed no matter how high the cost!" Jesus Christ said, "I will make certain, saints, you are redeemed no matter how low the cross!"
- **The Lord Jesus does not only say,** "As I live, I will redeem you" He says, from the cross, "As I die, I will redeem you." Boaz swore by the LORD's life that he would redeem Ruth, but do you see in the gospel Christ swore by His death?
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