

Ruth 05 – Rightly Redeemed - Ruth 4:1-10

We've been having a great time going thru the Book of Ruth

It's been BOTH - A Great Love story between Ruth & Boaz -
AND - and even Greater Love story between us & OUR Redeemer

So - Let's catch up before we begin today

In Ch 1 - after Elimelech's Foolish decision to take his family
to MOAB - & after he and his sons died there

Ruth made a huge Commitment of Faith
to leave her worldly life in Moab & become part of God's people

She committed herself to Naomi (& Naomi's God) no matter what -
& then - She & Naomi returned to Bethlehem - Broken & Destitute

In Ch 2 Ruth goes out to GLEAN in the fields - just to round up
some food for the 2 of them - - But, God had other plans

Ruth finds herself in Boaz's field - & suddenly she's talking to Boaz,
& having lunch with him

& Boaz immediately begins Taking Care of Ruth & Naomi

In Ch 3 the Harvest season was almost over
& so Naomi provides a little "Motherly Assistance"

to help get Ruth to present herself to Boaz
& ask him to be her REDEEMER - (to Marry her)

& that's where we left off last week

It's been a great story of Romance - AND of OUR Redemption -
& today we begin the "Happily Ever-After" closing Ch

Let's Pray

Remember in our Last Msg - When Ruth asked Boaz to be
her Redeemer - he said to her (in essence) in 3:12

I will make sure that you are Redeemed - HOWEVER . . .

*There is a Potential Redeemer who is closer than I
& he must be given the Chance to Redeem you FIRST*

& there was the Hurdle, the Obstacle, the Foil

Every good Love story has one -
Including OUR Love story with Jesus (Which is our Sin)

& so - Boaz commits to DEAL with this "Obstacle" - Right Away
& he says to Ruth - up in Ruth 3:13

Ruth 3:13 (ESV)

*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 . . ."*

Boaz's was Committed to Ruth being RIGHTLY REDEEMED

He loved her - but he knew he had to do things 'Right' in God's eyes
& THAT IS where we pick up the story today

Boaz is going to immediately address this other Possible Redeemer
in order to settle this matter at once

Which is exactly what Naomi KNEW he would do -
She had told Ruth - in the last Vs of Ch 3

Ruth 3:18 (esv)

18 . . . for the man will not rest but will settle the matter today.

& so - we pick up our story in - Ruth 4:1 (esv)

1 Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there . . .

At Morning's Light - Boaz went directly up to the "Gate" of the city

The City Gate was where all Judicial Business was transacted -
it'd be like going to the county courthouse in a small town

The Elders & the Leaders of the City, would all gather there
to work out legal & ethical issues in the town

Plus - because of the way towns were built - everyone eventually
either had to come IN or go OUT of that Town Gate

So - the Necessary Legal Environment was there - AND this other
"Possible Redeemer" would eventually be passing by there

So again - we read in Ruth 4:1 (esv)

1 Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there. And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So Boaz said, "Turn aside, friend; sit down here." And he turned aside and sat down.

It seems Boaz didn't have to wait too long
before the other Possible Redeemer passed by

& so **Boaz** says **Nonchalantly** to him
“*Turn aside, friend; sit down here*”

Now - **this is funny** - Because **the word** translated “**Friend**” here
is **LITERALLY** - “**So-and-So**”

Kinda like when we **don't know** someone's **name**,
we call them “**Brother**”, or **Dude**, or **Man**

But **this word** is actually **much more PURPOSEFUL** here

It **seems** clear - **the writer** does **NOT want** this man's **name** known -
& **so he** refers to him as “**Old So-and-So**”

So **Boaz** calls **Old So-and-So** over to **sit down** with him
& **then gets** right **to work** preparing **The Legal Environment**

Ruth 4:2 (esv)

2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city and said, “Sit down here.” So they sat down.

Legal transactions only required **2 or 3 witnesses**

But **Boaz** gets **Old So-and-So** sitting there, and **then** he gets **TEN**
of the **Elders** to **sit** with them (**5 times req amnt**)

& **then** - he **states his case** to **Mr. So-and-So**

Ruth 4:3 (esv)

3 Then he said to the redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech.”

Old So-and-So knows Naomi, and he knows Elimelech - some think he may’ve even been Elimelech’s brother

So **Boaz** starts **there** - because **THAT** is where this **Possible Redeemer’s Obligation** really **starts**

You see - **God made a way** - in **LEV Ch 25**

For Land to be **KEPT** within **the Family** it was **originally given to** when **Joshua** first **Divided** up **the Land** for Israel

It was possible to **sell** the **“RIGHTS”** to land - But **there** was **always a way** for that land to be **REDEEMED** & **Returned** to **the family**

So - The **“Rights”** to the land - **May have** already **been sold**
Or **maybe** Naomi is **ABOUT** to **sell the rights** to the land

Either way - **the Redeemer** would have **the Opportunity** - to **step in** & **Redeem** (Buy Back) **that land** FOR the **family**

Boaz is **informing** (reminding) this **Possible Redeemer** of his **“Ethical Right”** to **step in** - & **help** his **Relatives** out

This is the **Right way** to **Approach** it
Because Boaz wants Ruth - **RIGHTLY REDEEMED**

BUTTTT - that Does **NOT mean**
Boaz wants **Ruth** to **Marry Old So-and-So**

But **Boaz** must **RIGHTLY REDEEM Ruth** - & So **He** has a **PLAN**
& it's a **Good One** . . . but first . . . **MORE Suspense**

As Boaz cont's speaking - in Ruth 4:4 (esv)

4 So I thought I would tell you of it and say, 'Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.' If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after you." . . .

Boaz lays out **Mr. So-and-So's Opportunity** to **Redeem** this Family

& **actually** - according to **Lev 25**, & Israel **Tradition**

Old **So-and-So** **ALREADY** has a **Responsibility** to **Naomi & Ruth**
But **SINCE** they've returned - he hasn't **lifted a finger** for them

It'd **be like you** having a **Sister in Law** & a **Niece**
Starving & Destitute across town

& you **can't** even **shoot 'em** a **Text** to **check** on them

This guy really **Doesn't DESERVE** to be **the Redeemer**
He's already **Shirked** His **Responsibility**

So I'm sure **Boaz** is hoping **this guy** will just **step aside** politely -
BUUTTT . . . **Boaz** is **NOT** gonna be **that lucky**

It **seems like** - even as **Boaz** is **still speaking** -
Old **So-and-SO** **interrupts** him at the **end of V4** . . .

4 . . . And he said, "I will redeem it."

From the **Romance Suspense** side - we say **"No, No, No"**

Old So-and-So is a BOZO - He CAN'T Redeem Ruth -
He's not worthy - He doesn't even Care

What ? Did this guy suddenly Grow a Conscience ? -
Did he suddenly decide to do what's right ? - HARDLY

You see - The Redeemer's Job was to safeguard the property
FOR the Family - Then, to give it back to them

BUUTTT - since Naomi was too old to have any more children -
& her sons had already passed away

In Old So-and-So's eyes - If he DID Redeem the property
there would be no future heirs to give it back to,
so he could keep it for himself

So suddenly this sounds like a pretty good deal to Old So-and-So
But His only Motivation was good old fashioned GREED

BUT - We know Boaz is a Wealthy & Prominent Man
& he didn't get that way by walking away from Negotiations

Boaz is no fool - This isn't his first Rodeo

This guy's name has been Removed from God's Word -
But Boaz knew him - & he knew just how to HANDLE him

He's gonna give him the "Fine Print" of the Transaction

Ruth 4:5 (esv)

5 Then Boaz said, "The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire (marry) Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance."

The NLT helps us out here - - Remember So-and-So is thinking
He's gonna BENEFIT from this deal . . .

& so - the NLT says in Ruth 4:5 (NLT)

5 Then Boaz told him, "Of course, your purchase of the land from Naomi also requires that you marry Ruth, the Moabite widow. That way she can have children who will carry on her husband's name and keep the land in the family."

OK - so now the "Fine Print" is cleared up

So-and-So would have to Marry a MOABITE Widow - & have a child
& then GIVE the Land back to that child

In order to carry on the Family Name - & keep the land in the family

So - **BOZO So-and-So** starts Back-Pedaling
OOOHHH, Reallyyy, UUHHH, You didn't mention that

***& - did you say this widow was a MOABITE ???
Uh, cause we Jews don't really like Moabites***

So - the Land will COST Me
Taking the Moabite wife will definitely COST me
Having kids with her will definitely COST me . . .

& **THEN** I have to give the Land BACK to them ??

& **now that** the "**Fake Redeemer**" has the **full picture** - we read in

Ruth 4:6 (esv)

6 Then the redeemer said, “I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it.”

Oh, really?? - You **WANT** to help if it's **GOOD** for you
But you **CAN'T** help if it actually **COSTS** you something

Have you ever **known someone** like this? - Always **ready to help,**
as long as there's **something** in it for **them** ??

Those people need to learn **a lesson** from Old **So-and-So** here

This man ignored **the needs** of these **two widows** - Who were his
relatives - **UNTIL** he thought he **might benefit** from helping

& **as soon** as he **figured** it **wasn't** going to **benefit** him - he **bailed** out
& **God** made sure **his life** was **erased from scripture**

Luke 17:33 (ESV)

33 Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it.

Our **main focus** today is on “**RIGHTLY REDEEMING**” Ruth
But **this** is a **good** little “**Side Lesson**”

Ruth 4:7-8 (esv)

7 Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel.

8 So when the redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it for yourself,” he drew off his sandal.

A strange way to seal a deal - & if you traded a lot
it could be hard on your shoe collection

But in a land transaction - the Shoe was the symbol of
“*Walking on the Land you Owned*”

& so Old So-and-So slipped off - what probably was a loafer (cause
this guy didn't work much) - & he handed it to Boaz, to seal the deal

& Then - in V.9 - Boaz - Ruth's True Redeemer - Claims his RIGHT -
& His PURPOSE - in RIGHTLY REDEEMING Ruth

Ruth 4:9-10 (esv)

9 Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, “You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and to Mahlon.

10 Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought (acquired) to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day.”

Again the NLT helps us with V.10

10 And with the land I have acquired Ruth, the Moabite widow of Mahlon, to be my wife. This way she can have a son to carry on the family name of her dead husband and to inherit the family property here in his hometown . . .”

This was God's Intention for the Kinsman Redeemer -
& this is exactly what Boaz Intends to do

& he is doing it ALL by GRACE

Boaz did **NOT** have a **Legal Obligation** to do all this -
If anything - Old **So-and-So** had **that obligation**

But Boaz is saying I will Redeem this Family

I will **purchase back** all that **belonged** to them
& I will **pay the full price** to Redeem **Ruth**, the foreigner

I will **marry** her, & to **honor** her **husband's family**
our **first child** will Continue **HIS** family line

I will **pay the Full Price** - to make this "**RIGHT**"

Not out of **OBLIGATION** - Not out of **DUTY** - Out of **HESED**
Out of my **Steadfast & Unconditional Love** for **Ruth**

& **This** is **exactly WHY Jesus Christ** has **Redeemed US**
Strictly out of His **Steadfast & Unconditional LOVE** for us

All we did was humbly **come to His feet**, & ask him to **Cover us**

& **He** has **done everything else**
to **Rightly**, & **Perfectly**, & **Completely**, **REDEEM US**

This **Nameless "Possible Redeemer" COULD NOT**
"Rightly Redeem" Ruth - It was **IMPOSSIBLE** for Him

& so **some Scholars** see this **Nameless "Failed Redeemer"**
as a **Picture of the Law**

The Law could **NEVER** Redeem us - that is **made perfectly clear**

Romans 3:20 (NLT)

20 For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

It is IMPOSSIBLE - to be **Redeemed** by **the Law**

& then Romans 3:22 says (NLT)

22 We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

Jesus Christ is our only **ABLE Redeemer**

& when we put our **Full Faith** in Him - we are **coming under**
His COVERING - For **Him** to **REDEEM** us

The Law was never **meant** to be **a Redeemer**
it was **meant** to **Reveal** our **NEED** for a **Redeemer**

Galatians 3:24 (NKJV)

24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

The Role of Old **So-and-So** in our story - **was** to **make it clear**
WHO the **REAL Redeemer** was

This **Nameless Redeemer** said in **Ruth 4:6**
“I cannot redeem . . . lest I impair my own inheritance”

& the Law says the **SAME thing** - ***“I CANNOT Redeem you - I would have to lower my standard of Holy perfection, & I CANNOT”***

But **Ruth CAME** to her **True Redeemer** in **Faith**
& He **RIGHTLY REDEEMED** Her - **at Great Cost to Himself**

& guys - when **Jesus Christ Redeemed** us - It was at **GREAT COST**
to **Himself** - a **COST** we **cannot** even **comprehend**

Philippians 2:6–8 (NLT)

6 [Jesus] Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form,

8 he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

That **ENCAPSULATES** the **Price** Jesus **PAID** to **Redeem** us
But it **cannot fully DESCRIBE** the **Price** He paid

Jesus Christ **LEFT the throne room** of Heaven -
to **take on the image** of sinful **man**

& **then** - after **living** a **Perfect Life** -
took upon Himself the **SIN** of the **WORLD**

& **paid** the **Full & Complete Payment** Required
for **Your Sins** & Mine

Before **Ascending Back** to **Heaven**
Fully Victorious - On **OUR** Behalf

But **please listen** - **REV** makes it **clear** -

The **Eternally Existing One** - The **Lord of All Creation**
Still **BEARS the Marks** of His **Sacrifice** for us

& **if you** have **made** Him **YOUR Personal Redeemer**
You will **SEE the marks** that **YOUR SIN LEFT** on the **Lord of Glory**

& **only** at **THAT Moment** - will we **fully understand**
the PRICE He had to **PAY** - To **Redeem US**

How Great a Love is this - That the King of Kings, & Lord of Lords,
would BEAR the MARKS of MY sin - So that I could be Redeemed

RIGHTLY Redeemed,
FULLY Redeemed,
CONFIDENTLY Redeemed

No Longer trying to EARN our Position in the Family of God
But now - Fully Adopted - As Sons & Daughters

Not by Works - But by His Grace Alone

Is that YOU today?

Have you come to Jesus Christ as YOUR Redeemer ?
Knowing that He is your only Hope ?

& Have you asked Him to COVER you
with His Steadfast & Unconditional LOVE ?

Have you turned from Your Sin
& Asked Him to Wash you clean & Make you New ?

If not - I would IMPLORE you - to do that - Right Now

We're about to take Communion - To Remember
the Sacrifice Jesus Christ Made - to RIGHTLY REDEEM Us

THE PRICE for Him - And THE BENEFIT for Us
are BOTH - MORE than we can Fully Understand

& He offers to Pay that Price FOR YOU today

**Jesus Christ has Rightly Dealt with
ALL of God's Righteous Requirements to REDEEM YOU**

**He has stood before the Courts of Heaven - on YOUR behalf
& HE has Purchased Your Redemption for Eternity**

& tho it is All by HIS GRACE - You still have a Role

**Will you COME to Him - Just as you are
& Receive NEW LIFE in His Redemption**

Will you allow Him to Cover you ?

To Forgive all your Sin ?

To Give you Eternal Life with Him ?

If you would come to Him Just as you are today

**I would ask you - as a SIGN of that commitment -
to come stand right up here with me**

Let's Pray