

RUTH 3 LOVE'S REQUEST

The *goel* - *kinsman-redeemer* - had a specifically defined role in Israel's family life.

PEOPLE... The kinsman-redeemer was responsible to buy a fellow Israelite out of slavery ([Leviticus 25:48](#)).

PROPERTY... He was responsible to buy back family land that had been forfeited ([Leviticus 25:25](#)).

AVENGER OF BLOOD... He was responsible to be the "avenger of blood" to make sure the murderer of a family member answered to the crime ([Numbers 35:19](#)).

LEVIRATE MARRIAGE He was responsible to carry on the family name by marrying a childless widow ([Deuteronomy 25:5-10](#)).

As Morris points out... "the *goel*, the kinsman-redeemer, was responsible to safeguard the **persons**, the **property**, and the **posterity** of the family.

Goel : Kinsman Redeemer. There were four requirements:

- 1) near kinsman; close relative
- 2) able to perform; not just desire but ability
- 3) **willing** to perform. Desire to perform
- 4) must assume **all** the obligations involved

EASTON'S BIBLE DICTIONARY... Redemption means to purchase back of something that had been lost, by the payment of a ransom.

There is a **VERY IMPORTANT** distinction to make here. The debt is not just **CANCELLED**, it is **FULLY PAID**.

Perhaps God could cancel the debt without payment but it wouldn't be **redeemed**! It took a man, a near kinsman, to **pay** the debt and to **redeem** us! That is why it was **necessary** for Jesus Christ to become a man. **PRAY**

So arriving in Bethlehem Naomi and Ruth have nothing. No **land**, no **husbands**, no way of **making a living**... they arrive with nothing. **BUT NOTHING PLUS GOD IS EVERYTHING!**

Chapter 3 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek **security** for you, that it may be well with you?"

The Hebrew word for **security** here is the same word for **rest** in Ruth 1:9, where Naomi hoped that her daughters-in-law would find rest and security in the home of a new husband. This Hebrew word (*manowach*) speaks of what a home should be – a place of rest and security.

Naomi was faced with three issues:

1. How could the name of Elimelech be maintained among the tribes of Israel since both her sons were now dead?
2. How can I get back my inheritance lost?
3. How could she provide rest and security for her faithful daughter in-law?

A marriage between Ruth and Boaz would solve all three problems.

NAOMI would have to **RENOUNCE** her own claim to Boaz as the goel (kinsmen redeemer) and give it to Ruth, the younger widow.

² Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, *is he* not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.

Threshing Floor The harvest involved harvesting the grain and preparing it for market. The threshing floor was a large, flat parcel of ground where there was a prevailing wind. **After the grain had been ground**, they would throw the grain up in the air and the wind would cause the grain to fall a little bit downwind and the chaff would fall further downwind. If done properly, one would end up with two piles, the closer one being good for market, and the further one would be burned as trash.

This was not only a time of **work**, but also a time of **celebration**. Typically the afternoon was spent threshing the grain and that night they would have a party (Isa 41:14-16). So the owners and the servants in charge would sleep there to prevent theft of the grain

³ Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your *best* garment and go down to the threshing floor;

FIRST STEP... wash yourself... make sure you get behind the ears...

SECOND... anoint yourself... put on some good smellies!

THIRD... put your best dress on... it might imply that Ruth was still wearing the garments of her widowhood. It might also refer to the outer garment or cape since the word is singular, which would protect her from the chill of the night as well as allow her to remain anonymous

End of verse 3... *but* do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. **Don't interrupt his meal!**

⁴ Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down *The Hebrew reads, "The place where the feet are."* and he will tell you what you should do."

Some might think this was a provocative gesture, as if Ruth was told to offer herself sexually to Boaz. This was not how this gesture was understood in that day. In the culture of that day, this was understood as an **ACT OF TOTAL SUBMISSION**.

this was understood to be the role of a servant - to lay at their master's feet and be ready for any command of the master. So, when Naomi told Ruth to **lie down at Boaz's feet, she told her to come to him in a totally humble, submissive way. As Missler adds, THE POSITION WAS A LOWLY ONE; IT REPRESENTED RUTH AS A PETITIONER.**

Don't lose sight of the larger picture: Ruth came to claim a right. Boaz was her *goel*, her kinsman-redeemer, and she had the *right* to expect him to marry her and raise up a family to perpetuate the name of Elimelech. But Naomi wisely counseled Ruth to not come as a **victim** demanding her rights, but as a **humble servant**, trusting in the goodness of her kinsman-redeemer. She takes it a step further...

If Boaz did not fulfill this duty towards Elimelech then the direct family and **NAME OF ELIMELECH WOULD PERISH**. Perpetuating the family name of Elimelech (and every man in Israel) was thought to be an important duty. These protections showed **how important it was** to God to preserve the institution of the family in Israel – same today!

⁵ And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do."

⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her. ⁷ And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain;

1 Samuel 23 verse 1 Then they told David, saying, "Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah, and they are robbing the threshing floors."

Boaz would lie down by one heap of his grain, and his servants would be scattered in other areas of his property guarding the heaps of grain... Remember "days of the Judges" dark days... "everyone did what was right in their own eyes."

Ending verse 7... and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.

SCULPTOR THORS WALDEN chiseled a glorious statue of Jesus Christ. Due to the position of His body, however, it is impossible to see His face. A sign next to the statue says this: *If you desire to see His face, you must first sit at His feet. And as you sit at the feet of that sculpture and look up, it is then and only then that you see His face.*

Ruth sought to be at Boaz's feet, and her redemption is nigh.

⁸ Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet. **Crusting eyes and darkness** ⁹ And he said, "Who are you?"

So she answered, "I am Ruth, your MAIDSERVANT. **AMAH; THUS SHE PRESENTED HERSELF AS ONE WHO WAS ELIGIBLE FOR MARRIAGE. Take** your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative." **Take... present imperative...** Ruth the humble servant is demanding... **You are my goel... kinsman redeemer. So this you must do!**

Under your wing: Here, she boldly asked Boaz to take her in marriage. The phrase can also be translated as "**spread the corner of your garment over me.**" This was a culturally relevant way to say, "I am a widow, take me as your wife."

"Even to the present day, when a Jew marries a woman, *he throws the skirt or end of his talith over her*, to signify that he has taken her under his protection." (Clarke)

In Ezekiel 16:8, God uses the same terminology in relation to Israel: verse 8 "When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord God.

Ruth says be my redeemer... your my only hope. Would Boaz offer such grace to a lost Moabite widow? **WOULD JESUS COVER YOU?** The answer is YES!






















Goel For you are a near kinsman. In this request, Ruth seems to depart from Naomi's specific instructions and add something of her own. This is significant, since again it shows Ruth's devotion to Naomi. Naomi only wanted to obtain a husband for Ruth, a concern of the older widow for the younger widow throughout the book. But by invoking the *goel*, the kinsman-redeemer custom, **on her own initiative**, Ruth subordinated her own happiness to her family duty of providing Naomi with an heir.

¹⁰ Then he said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich. **Apparently, there was a considerable age difference between Ruth and Boaz. It also seems that because of this, Boaz considered himself unattractive to Ruth and had therefore ruled out any idea of a romance between them. Plus his knowledge of a nearer Kinsman would have kept him from pursuing her.**

BOAZ... never forced himself upon Ruth as the goel. Knowing she may not be attracted to an "old dude".

RUTH... demonstrated love by respect not by appearance.

¹¹ And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a **virtuous woman**. **It's not an obligation to Me—it's an elation for Me.**

H       1 2 ...            H   ...  

Literally, Boaz called Ruth a *hah-yil* woman. The basic meaning behind this Hebrew word is "strength; moral strength, good quality, integrity, virtue." Same as proverbs 31... Hebrew bible proverbs ends and then Ruth begins... Ruth fleshes out what is explained in proverbs 31

Proverbs 31:30 Charm *is* deceitful and beauty *is* passing, But a woman *who* fears the Lord, she shall be praised.

This same word is used in a term for heroes in the Bible: *A mighty man of valor*. Just as courage and strength make a man a hero, so Ruth's courage and strength, shown in her virtue - make her a hero.

One translator renders his statement, "Thou art a bride worth winning."

Jesus says you are a bride worth dying for!

¹² Now it is true that I *am* a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. **ANOTHER CRAZY TURN...** Apparently, though Boaz was a recognized *goel* towards Ruth, there was another *goel* closer in relation to her deceased father-in-law Elimelech. So, Boaz could not exercise his right as kinsman-redeemer unless this closer kinsman-redeemer relinquished his rights towards Ruth.

¹³ Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be *that* if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you—good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the LORD lives! Lie down until morning."

There was another who had first rights over Elimelech's family name... there is one who had rights over us before our greater than Boaz redeemed us.

¹⁴ So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Ruth was at Boaz's feet, then rose up before the break of day. The best place for us to be is at the feet of the Lord before we rise up to start our day.

Then he said, "Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor."¹⁵ Also he said, "Bring the shawl *It is large enough to envelope the whole person; and that worn by the poorer classes it was coarse and very strong.* that *is* on you and hold it." And when she held it, he measured six *ephahs* of barley, and laid *it* on her. *The Targum renders six seahs, which, as a seah was about 2 ½ gallons, must have been a very heavy load for a woman; and so the Targumist thought, for he adds, And she received strength from the Lord to carry it.*

COURSON Why did Boaz give Ruth *six* measures of barley? I suggest it was because God worked six days in creation. He didn't rest until the seventh day—when His work was complete. Boaz is sending a message through Ruth to Naomi, saying: "I'm going to work and not rest until my work is complete—until she's my wife." It was a tricky message which passed right over the head of Ruth, a young convert. But Naomi understood, as evidenced by her response in verse 18.

Ending verse 15... Then she went into the city. ¹⁶ When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "Is that you, my daughter?" **simply "how did it go?"**

Then she told her all that the man had done for her. ¹⁷ And she said, "These six *ephahs* of barley he gave me; for he said to me, 'Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'" ¹⁸ Then she said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day." **Now we wait for God's will to be done. Boaz will do all in his power to make this happen but in the end it belongs to God... for God is working!**

Genesis chapters 37-50 **Joseph...** *The main character in this dance is Yahweh.* Two theaters are showing the same movie but from a completely different angle. The one on earth is one of tragedy and despair. The one in heaven is showing how this tragedy will end in the survival of a family from which the Messiah will come. **THIS WORLD CAN TAKE A LOT FROM US... IT CAN'T TAKE OUR CHARACTER... WE HAVE TO GIVE THAT AWAY... DON'T... JOSEPH NEVER DID !!**

Had God abandoned Joseph? He had every reason to believe so. Why not pity himself? He had not done anything to deserve this. His actions and motives were pure...

His father's favoritism messed up his sibling relationships.

Polygamy had created a mess with the "yours, mine, ours" struggles of parenting.

HE HAD BEEN MONSTROUSLY ABUSED BY HIS BROTHERS. The scars were there to stay – their homicidal rage, his beating and humiliation, their demeaning destructive critical words.

The agonizing trip to Egypt.

HIS NAKED HUMILIATION ON THE SLAVE BLOCK IN EGYPT.

This dude should be messed up! What an opportunity for enslavement to victimhood. **“Poor me” should be his mantra.** NO! He knew God was MASSIVE and working in his suffering. Providence!

If Joseph's brothers never sell him to the Midianites, then Joseph never goes to Egypt.

If Joseph never goes to Egypt, he never is sold to Potiphar.

If he is never sold to Potiphar, Potiphar's wife never falsely accuses him of rape.

If Potiphar's wife never falsely accuses him of rape, then he is never put in prison.

IF HE IS NEVER PUT IN PRISON, HE NEVER MEETS THE BAKER AND BUTLER OF PHARAOH.

If he never meets the baker and butler of Pharaoh, he never interprets their dreams.

If he never interprets their dreams, he never gets to interpret Pharaoh's dreams.

If he never gets to interpret Pharaoh's dreams, he never is made prime minister.

IF HE IS NEVER MADE PRIME MINISTER, HE NEVER WISELY ADMINISTRATES FOR THE SEVERE FAMINE COMING UPON THE REGION.

If he never wisely administrates for the severe famine coming upon the region, then his family back in Canaan perishes from the famine.

If his family back in Canaan perishes from the famine, the Messiah can't come forth from a dead family.

If the Messiah can't come forth, then Jesus never came.

If Jesus never came, you are dead in your sins and without hope in this world.

Joseph's life teaches us, that our **DISAPPOINTMENTS ARE REALLY GOD'S APPOINTMENTS.** The merciful providence of God can cause us to rejoice tomorrow in the very same circumstances, that today, may be causing us to mourn.

“The **HEART** of the human problem is the **HEART** of the human. Our only hope is a full transplant. Good thing Jesus is our **BLOOD TYPE.**”

"Beautiful Things" All this pain... I wonder if I'll ever find my way
I wonder if my life could really change at all... All this earth
Could all that is lost ever be found
Could a garden come up from this ground at all

You make beautiful things... You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things... You make beautiful things out of us