

Introduction

- If you have your Bibles...
- For the first time in U.S. history, single adults outnumber married adults. This trend is also becoming increasingly common in other Western nations. Part of this is due to the fact that people are waiting longer than ever to marry. The first marriage for most men is around age 30. For women, it is in the late 20s. This is considerably higher than at any point in U.S. history.

Ruth 3

3 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."

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[a] over your servant, for you are a redeemer." 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. 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. 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."

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." 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.'" 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."

Context

- Ruth 3 is the most important chapter in this book. It is the moment where it all comes together.
- Context. Ruth is a young gentile widow. She has abandoned her former gods, and has abandoned her former sinful life, and she has traveled back from her homeland to Israel because she loves her mother in law Naomi, and because she loves the God of Israel. Yahweh.

- Last week she “happened” upon Boaz’s field, and Boaz showed her great kindness by giving her safety and provision. It has probably been about 6 weeks or so, and the time of the harvest is coming to a close. Time is running out, since Boaz and Ruth won’t be seeing one another anymore when the seasonal work comes to an end.
- Three things we need to see for ourselves that we will pull from this text.

Christianity isn't for Cowards

- Naomi, desiring security for her daughter-in-law, orchestrates a highly strategic, calculated, and honestly... very risky plan designed to compel Boaz to fulfill his covenantal obligation The Strategy - Wash up, get a makeover, buy a party dress, Put on some perfume, and sneak.
 - Ruth has a reputation as a good girl, but here she is, sneaking around like she is past her curfew. By venturing alone to a barn full of men late at night, she risked the utter destruction of her hard-won reputation.
- Uncover Boaz’ feet - and lay down before him.
 - Lying at the feet of a superior was an act of total submission, and acted as a non-verbal, physical gesture intended to communicate a formal petition.
 - The act was a symbolic request for protection, provision, redemption, and ultimately, marriage. This bold approach immediately placed the responsibility for action squarely upon Boaz.
 - There is also something here that we can learn about seeking out God’s will.
 - Christianity isn't just about believing correctly; it's about acting courageously. Christians are not to sit on their hands acting helpless. We are to be actively seeking and pursuing God’s plan for our lives. We are to be moving boldly, fearlessly in the direction God has for us. God has not given us a spirit of Fear. don't let fear paralyze you from action.
- The Threshing Floor
 - We need to understand the depth of the risk that Ruth took by going to Boaz on the threshing floor. The threshing floor was not typically a place of romance or proposals.
 - The Threshing floor was a plot of ground where the grain from the harvest was threshed by being hit with a sledge, trampled by animals, or crushed under the wheels of a cart. A threshing fork is used to throw the milled grain into the air, and allow the wind to separate out the kernels from the husk, chaff, and stalk. The straw would be used for animals, the chaff for fuel, and the grain for food.
 - This imagery is crucial, for John the Baptist himself compares the final day of judgment to the work done on the threshing floor. Matthew 3:11-12 - “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing

floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

- Ruth is literally stepping into a physical location that is a powerful theological image of final accountability, asking her redeemer to settle her fate—to categorize her as wheat or chaff.
- But because of the harvest’s extreme value, someone was typically tasked with guarding the harvest against robbers.

Apply

- Advice for those who are seeking a spouse
 - Ladies, don't do this. Don't sneak into your guy's house in the middle of the night and go to where he is sleeping and uncover his feet. That is weird. This is describing what happened, not describing how you should pursue a spouse.
- Today, single people often ask where the line is in dating.
 - Ephesians 5:3 - But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.
 - Indeed, the question is not where is the line as much as when is the time. The time is marriage, but not before.
 - Song of Songs states three times “do not arouse or awaken love before its time.”
 - Hebrews 13:4 - Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.
 - Now in a room this large, I am certain that there are several here that are not behaving according to this command. You have chosen a love for the flesh over a love for the Lord. and you may not yet realize it but you have decided that your pleasure is worth the coming judgement. It is time to repent, remove the sin from your life, and come back to Jesus.

The All In Moment

- Vs 8-9
- “Spread your wing” - Ruth asked Boaz to answer his own prayer of 2:12 and be God's wing of covering over her. In short, she didn't propose marriage to Boaz, but rather declared her love for him and invited him to ask for her hand in marriage.
 - Could this have been taken wrong?
 - Absolutely. The act of total submission Ruth gave would have allowed Boaz to take advantage of her in any way that he chose. He could have rejected her, he could have made her his slave, he could have assaulted her. Her security hinged entirely on his integrity.
 - Thailand - 2 Types of Men go to Thailand. One type goes for the pull of sin and pleasure. The other type goes to help redeem those who are sold into slavery. The difference between these

two types of men is character. To do what is right when no one is looking. That's Boaz.

- The true test of a promise is not the obstacle, but the integrity of the one who swore the oath.
- Bible commentators vigorously debate whether Ruth's actions are good or scandalous.
 - While it doesn't seem like Ruth's actions technically crossed a line, it does seem that they danced on it vigorously late at night. Ruth did indeed trample many cultural taboos: She was younger and Boaz was older; she was a servant and he was her boss; she was a Moabite and he was an Israelite; she was poor and he was rich; and she was a woman and he was a man.
- The difference between Character and Reputation
 - Your reputation is what other people think about you.
 - Ruth knew Boaz had a good reputation.
 - Character is who you are when no one is watching.
 - Ruth was gambling with whether or not Boaz's reputation and his character aligned. What would Boaz do on the threshing floor?
- If you want to know your true character, go on your own. Go travel somewhere and be alone. Your behavior while you are alone will tell you your character. If you are driving, and you throw a can out the window. That's who you really are. If you are sitting at your computer looking at trash, that's who you are. If you cheat on a test, or cheat on your taxes. That is who you are. Do you lie? Do you steal? Do you cheat? That's who you are. I don't know you. But you can't escape yourself, and you can't escape the Lord
 - Proverbs 15:3 - The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.
 - Luke 8:17 - For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light.
 - an individual's moral and ethical qualities are the most important factor in shaping their life. While skills and opportunities are valuable, a strong character is what defines you. You will be better off cultivating a Godly character, than cultivating the most sought after skills and talents.
- And character doesn't only affect you!
- We all submit to someone, and it turns out that the character of the person you are submitting to is of utmost importance for your life to have a positive outcome.
 - Wives will suffer greatly if they choose to marry a man of questionable character. Employees will get dragged into wicked, sinful practices by their bosses if they are not morally upright. A church will quickly become unhealthy and corrupt if the pastor/elders have selfish ulterior motives. The character of those who lead and cover you determines the security of your rest and the direction of your life

The Kinsman Redeemer

- What does a Kinsman Redeemer do? (Leviticus 25, Deuteronomy 25)
 - There was a rigorously legal component of redemption in ancient Israel. The Kinsman Redeemer had specific duties rooted in Mosaic law.
 - These duties included:
 - 1. The redemption of ancestral family property that had been lost due to debt or distress. During the famine, Elimelech likely sold ancestral land to survive. Boaz would have to buy it back at the current market value.
 - 2. fulfilling the biblical requirement to marry the childless widow and "raise up seed" to perpetuate the deceased husband's name ().
 - Ruth's first son would not be considered Boaz's but instead Ruth's late husband, Mahlon. Not only that, but half of Boaz's estate would be given as Elimelech's inheritance. Meaning his own children would get only half of what they were supposed to get.
 - This is like signing a prenuptial agreement with a corpse.
 - At first glance, marrying a young, loyal, hard-working widow sounds like winning the ancient lottery. But there is a massive cost!
 - While all of this formality was laid out, let me remind you that this was not a requirement, and was totally voluntary. Boaz did not need to say yes.
 - Redemption is sacrificial, operating on a non-profitable economy for the Redeemer. Grace is costly to the Redeemer, yet freely given to the redeemed.
 - Titus 3:5-6 - he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior
 - Boaz's choice in that dark barn was the ultimate test of his integrity. He chose the path of difficult, public, and legal covenant fulfillment. He praises Ruth for seeking covenant security instead of simply a young mate, and he immediately takes steps to protect Ruth's reputation, ordering her to leave before daylight.
 - Boaz reveals to Ruth that as a law-abiding man, he must find a way to marry her legally. And, closer to the women than Boaz was another family member who had the first right to redeem Ruth. But Boaz expresses his desire, and promises that whether it is him, or someone else, Ruth and Naomi WILL BE REDEEMED.
- A Theological Payoff - The legal role of the Kinsman Redeemer in human society was originally intended to image the work of God Himself, as the term "Kinsman Redeemer" appears primarily applied to God in early scripture (e.g., in the Exodus redemption). By accepting this duty, Boaz steps into a role that images divine rescue and restoration for the lost and helpless.
 - The moment the promise is secured, the burden of resolution shifts from Ruth, to Boaz. From the needy individual to the powerful, tireless Redeemer. At the moment of your salvation, you're no longer responsible for saving yourself, That is Jesus Christ's Job as your redeemer. God's promises are guaranteed

because they are anchored entirely in His faithful, God-like character. We can rest, knowing that the ultimate Redeemer, Jesus Christ, is ceaselessly at work to accomplish His purposes and fulfill His covenant, ensuring that our final, glorious inheritance is secured.

The Greater Boaz (Conclusion)

- Boaz - Jesus
 - He Had to Become Kin: For Jesus Christ to fulfill the role of Kinsman Redeemer for humanity, He had to become human, taking on flesh and blood so He could call us His brothers and sisters.
 - He Paid the Ultimate Debt: Jesus Christ steps forward as the willing Kinsman-Redeemer, performing the most costly act of redemption. He was "without any obligation" to redeem humanity, yet He willingly paid the ultimate price—His life—to redeem His bride, the Church, granting restoration and eternal inheritance. Just like Boaz, Jesus didn't redeem you because you were a good investment. Just like Boaz, Jesus paid a great debt to redeem you. He bore the inheritance stain of our sin and our social disgrace on the cross.
 - He Secured Our Inheritance: Just like Boaz, Jesus is married to a Gentile Bride (Ephesians 5:25-32). God's promises are guaranteed because they are anchored entirely in His faithful, tireless, God-like character.
 - Jesus Christ steps forward as the willing Kinsman-Redeemer, performing the most costly act of redemption. He was "without any obligation" to redeem humanity, yet He willingly paid the ultimate price—His life—to redeem His bride, the Church, granting restoration and eternal inheritance.
 - We can wait patiently because our Redeemer works tirelessly
- Ruth - Gentiles
 - We, like Ruth, approach the ultimate Kinsman-Redeemer with nothing to offer—foreigners, destitute, and widowed—and place oneself wholly under His covering and authority.
 - illustrating the profound dependence of the redeemed upon Jesus Christ, the ultimate Kinsman-Redeemer who secures eternal inheritance.
- We can wait patiently because our Redeemer works tirelessly. At the moment of your salvation, you're no longer responsible for saving yourself. That is Jesus Christ's job as your redeemer. We can rest, knowing that the ultimate Redeemer, Jesus Christ, is ceaselessly at work to accomplish His purposes and fulfill His covenant, ensuring that our final, glorious inheritance is secured.
- Next time you're tempted to think, "God must've gotten a bargain with me," remember the threshing floor. Your salvation cost Him a split inheritance, a stained reputation, and a Moabite bride with baggage. But still He calls it "very good." The bill is settled. The field is yours. The curse is cancelled.