

## Ruth 3-4 – 16 December 2021

### “Approaching Our Redemption Part 2 of 2”

#### Introduction

- \*The book of Ruth takes place in the very ungodly time period of the Judges (1380BC-1050BC)
- \*It reminds us that anyone can choose to seek & serve God *regardless of the culture around them*
- \*Not only any Jew can seek/serve God, book shows that *even Gentiles* can find grace in their Redeemer
- \*Two views from this book
  - \*Ruth aided along by Naomi in finding grace in the face of her redeemer Boaz
  - \*The Gentiles aided along by Israel in finding grace in the face of our Redeemer Jesus
- \*We saw in Chap 1 & 2 the 1st 2 factors in approaching the Lord for redemption
  - \*Choosing to leave comfort & seek Go
    - \*Ruth (Gentiles) chose to go toward God
  - \*Then God’s grace brings us nearer
    - \*Boaz (Redeemer) blessed her beyond deserve

**\*So today, here are the final 2 of 4 factors in approaching the Lord for redemption**

\*We pick up where Naomi just found out that Ruth was gleaning in the house of Boaz a near kinsman

**3<sup>rd</sup> factor in approaching the Lord for redemption is our humility & attitude of service (Chap 3)**

Read Chap 3:1

1. Naomi intentionally wants to get Ruth married to Boaz

Read Chao 3:2-5

1. They would lay there to protect the grain until it was all gathered in
2. Notice how she approaches
  - a. She had the right to play the victim and ask him to marry her
  - b. She instead takes the position of a servant in complete submission to him laying at feet

## Read Chap 3:6-9

1. *Spread thy skirt* is an ask for marriage
2. So, she's humbly asking for marriage
  - a. This is bold but not inappropriate
3. She's presenting herself as his *handmaiden* & knows that he holds the answer

## Read Chap 3:10-11

1. He's attracted to her virtue, not her body
2. Culture today gives girls that advise, "now go find the man & take off your clothes to allure him"
  - a. She was told to attract him by her virtue of humility & attitude of service
  - b. Some girls take off their clothes to reveal their bodies; some girls leave them on to reveal their dignity & virtue

## Read Chap 3:12-13

1. He's willing to marry her, but needs to go thru the nearer kinsman first
  - a. If it's truly God's will, it will work out doing it the right way

2. If Boaz represents Jesus the kinsman redeemer, then who does that “Man X” represent being even closer in relation to Ruth the Gentile?
  - a. Let’s find out as his attributes are laid out

Read Chap 3:14-15

1. Ruth sneaks away early in the morning w/ much food from Boaz
2. Although there wasn’t any sin last night, they want to avoid even the appearance of evil

Read Chap 3:16-18

1. They know that the ball’s in his court
2. Ruth has done her part to come toward God
  - a. Her part is attitude not action
  - b. Her part is deference not dominance
  - c. Her part is piety not payment
  - d. Notice vs 19 – *sit still*
    - i. Her part is to be the faithful not the fulfiller

## **4<sup>th</sup> factor in approaching the Lord for redemption is Person X rejects the people but God embraces them (Chap 4)**

Read Chap 4:1-2

1. This's place of conducting formal, legal business
2. “Gates of hell shall not prevail against church”
  - a. The influence & procedures of hell

Read Chap 4:3-4

1. Now we have a problem b/c the nearer kinsman wants the land
2. So, the 1<sup>st</sup> thing we learn about Person X is that he's more than glad to expand his area of control

Read Chap 4:5

1. Remember that the first child born to Ruth & her new husband is so that the family of Naomi isn't ended or cut off (Deut 25:5-10)
2. Now detailed desires of Person X will be revealed – is he passionate about the people or just the possession?

3. In this, Boaz just declared his intention to marry Ruth if the man won't do it

Read Chap 4:6-8

1. Person X represents none other than Satan
  - a. He doesn't want to hurt his own kingdom
  - b. He's nearer kin as an angel, than God is
  - c. Wants possession for power, but not people
2. Many in the church this way – interested in the power of the possession but not the people
3. Boaz represents Jesus who is the opposite of Satan (Matt 4 temptation) represented by Person X
  - a. Read Matt 13:44 - *Jesus bought all the stuff (at a price) just to win the people!*
  - b. No good to gain world & loss valuable soul
  - c. Turn to Rev 5:1-9 – Jesus bought the whole universe to redeem the people, to redeem you!

Read Chap 4:9-10

1. Just as Boaz's redemption of Ruth wasn't done in secret, neither was Jesus's redemption of us

- a. Boaz tells the people they're witnesses to this contractual change – Read Matt 27:24-25

Read Chap 4:11-12

1. Boaz & Ruth were blessed of the people
2. But Jesus was cursed of the people
3. But the goal was the same; to raise up a generation into life!

Read Chap 4:13-16

1. In picture here; the church respects Israel
2. If Naomi hadn't had the knowledge of God or pointed Ruth toward Him, all those years ago, none of this would have happened

Read Chap 4:17-22

1. Evidence this was written at time of David
2. Shows that Boaz's mom was Rahab – Boaz had a great respect for Gentiles
3. *Jesus doesn't just respect us Gentiles – He has us in His blood*

## Conclusion

So, the story of Ruth is a great picture of us on the approach to our redemption

1. **From Chap 1** – Do you desire the knowledge of the Lord? – He’s looking to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are perfect towards Him
2. **From Chap 2** – God is working the circumstances together for our good - God’s grace-filled plan doesn’t just happen
3. **From Chap 3** – Are you approaching God humbly with an attitude of service?
4. **From Chap 4** – The willing Redeemer pays a heavy price for his love for the treasure hidden in the field

What a love, what a cost, we stand forgiven at the cross!