



## **Redeemer**– Ruth 4

December 17, 2023

“Why this story, now?” That’s the vital question as the book of Ruth draws to a close. It’s a cool story of an unnamed opportunist and a legal dispute, but what difference does it make? And what does this story tell us about Jesus?

As we conclude our Bethlehem series, Lewis Roderick tells us there *is* a Redeemer; one who knew what it cost and willingly paid it all to buy for himself a people.

For personal reflection/community discussion

**Read** – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasised, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarise these verses in 10 words or less)

**Examine** – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does it reveal about people?
- How do you think the writer wanted his reader to respond to these words?

**Apply** - After seeking to understand God's Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

- Let's think a little deeper about Christ's redemption of his people. What do we learn from the following passages? Matthew 20:28, Romans 3:22–25, Ephesians 1:7–8, and Hebrews 9:12–15.
- How precious are his people to Jesus? What is the biggest struggle you have in believing this about yourself?
- What is the difference between the shadow of the cross for Jesus and for us? How does one influence the other? What might sheltering under it look like for you? [try to be as practical as you can in answering this; consider *your* day and week as you seek opportunities to sit in the shadow of the Christ's cross]
- Do you know the following songs? William Cowper's, "There is a Fountain Filled with Blood", "Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It", "My Song Is Love Unknown"? Take a listen online and allow your meditation to rise in prayer and praise.