

Intro: Who's the Main Character? Lord of the Rings? Frodo the Hobbit? Or Sam. Or is it really Aragorn the one who's crown King in the end. Or is it **Gandalf** the Great wizard who's hand seems to be at work directing their every step. Always shows up at just the right time!!! **Same question here:** Who's the main character? Is it **Ruth**? Named after her. Or is it **Naomi** who the narrative actually seems to follow more closely? Or is it **Boaz** the Kinsman Redeemer? **David? Jesus.** Today it's Boaz. Feminists won't like that.

Thesis: "Jesus is the Greater Boaz"

I. Boaz is a Believer (1-4)

- A. **Worthy Man.** Honorable. Respected/Respectable. High status. Wealthy. Property.
- B. **Obeying Law** to leave grain for the sojourners and the poor/widows.
- C. **Covenant Believer.** "**YHWH be with You!**" That's a benediction. "**YHWH bless you!**"
*Whenever you see the **Covenant Name** of the LORD/God in Bible, usually sign of faith.*
- D. **v.3 "Ruth happened upon his field."** Haha. "**It just so happened.**" God directing her paths.

APPLICATION: 1. God is directing our paths. He's the God of details. At work in our day-to-day life.

ILLUSTRATION: CONVO: "I know God loves me. Have a hard time believing he's involved in every single detail and day of my life. There are a lot of other people in this world for God to be concerned about, who have more needs of God's attention than little ol' me. He needs to help them. Try to live life in such a way that He doesn't have to worry about me, and I don't need trouble Him all the time." Humility?
2. JESUS was perfectly obedient. He wasn't just a believer in God. He **is** God. **Worthy.**

II. Boaz is a Protector (5-13; 21-22)

- A. Compassion/Respect for this foreign, enemy woman. Shows her dignity even if she is a Moabite.

ILLUSTRATION: Jesus in John 4, woman at the well. "He had to go through Samaria. No He didn't.

- B. Boaz see and respects her as a human being. IMAGO DEI. Not an object for use/abuse.
- C. Bethlehem will soon be a place of rampant/dark sexual evil/sin/abuse/assault. Maybe begun?
- D. Boaz sees and respects her faith. Child of God. Welcomes her. Doesn't question her.

APPLICATION: In a culture where women are objectified and only appreciated for their physical appearance, what they can provide/present of themselves. Boaz is different. He's respectful/caring. Honors her and protects her dignity. That's what **JESUS** has done too. And that's what He can help us do.

III. Boaz is a Provider (14-19; 23)

- A. **Fellowship/Breaking Bread with Ruth/Moabite!** At the same table! "Woman. Sinner."

ILLUSTRATION: JESUS: "Who is this who even eats with sinners/tax collectors?!" "Friend of sinners." "If he knew who this was that was touching his feet, he would've sent her away." **Marshall Dillon/Miss Kitty.**

- B. **Emphasis here on their differences.** He's different. She's different. Doesn't make sense. **Equal.**

- C. **v.10** "Why do you take notice of me. A foreigner?" "Favor (grace) in your eyes?" **FAITH.**

APPLICATION: Luke 7:36-50. "her sins, which are many, are forgiven; she loved much. forgiven little, loves little."

1. JESUS is different than us too. And yet He still loved us. Showed us grace/generosity. Provides salvation for us. Gave of Himself. Was willing to risk his reputation to love people like us.

2. There's no sinner or type of person that Jesus will not welcome, love, generously provide salvation for because of His grace. Maybe you've got so much shame, you don't see how He could. **He does.**

3. Jesus shows us grace too. Through faith. No matter our background. HOW?

IV. Boaz is a Redeemer (20-23)

- A. More on this later. **Main Things:** Relative. Repeatedly pointed out. **Elimelech. Bethlehem.**

APPLICATION: JESUS is our Redeemer. He has bought our salvation with His life. When we Believe in Him, He credits us His **Perfect Obedience.** His generous sacrifice to **Provide** salvation for us; to restore our dignity and value as Image Bearers of God. And He will keep/**Protect** us to the end. Jesus is God. He is **Perfect.** He is our **Protector.** He is our **Provider.** And He is our **Redeemer.** Jesus is the Great Boaz.

So that when you and I are not like Boaz, we have a representative. An advocate who stands in our place When we **Believe** that He is our **Protector, Provider and Redeemer.**