

Ruth 4 Redemption

Ch.1 Decisions –

A) A man named Elimelech made a decision – go to Moab – escape famine in Bethlehem. / not die

B) Took wife and two sons to Moab – 10 yrs.

1) Boys take Moabite women as brides – Ruth and Orpah

C) Elimelech dies in Moab- his two sons die as well

1) Left with 3 widows – makings for a sad story

Then Naomi makes a decision – Going Home.

A) I don't belong here – going home

B) Says to her daughters in law – this is your home you stay – you belong here

1) Orpah's decision – Stays

C) Ruth's decision: No way – Naomi – I am Going with you where you go...people... your God

Ch.2 Providence Ruth just so happens to end up in Boaz field – Boaz takes a liking to her – compassion – blesses her –

A) We realize – it wasn't chance – but Providence – God working in the lives of ordinary people to carry out his bigger plan.

B) Boaz is a Near Kinsman – System Kinsman....

C) When a piece of property was sold or lost – debt, bankruptcy poor decisions –

1) The nearest Kinsman could buy it back (redeem) = buy back at any time

D) To keep it in the family name and line.

E) He had to be Nearest Relative/ Able / Willing

1) Catch – if there was a widow attached to the land he had to be willing to Marry her – package deal.

That is what we saw in Chapter 3 – Naomi and Ruth realize that Boaz is a near Kinsman

A) He is being really nice to Ruth – seems interested in her – beyond employer/ employee

B) He compliments her several times for her character -

C) Ch.3 Proposal- Because Ruth proposes that if Boaz is interested that he put a ring on it

1) She proposes that HE propose - He is happy to do it!

D) PROBLEM However: there is a closer Kinsman – Criteria for being a Kinsman Redeemer

1) Technically this other guy has first dibs on the land and on Ruth –

E) Left off last week Boaz says – I will take care of it

1) If this other guy is willing – OK – but if not I will do it for sure

Now at the end of last week – I think many of us were thinking - Forget about the rules –

A) You love her – she obviously has a thing for you – **marry her for crying out loud!**

B) But Boaz is a godly man of character – Because of that he is determined to do **the right thing.**

Right way

1) He is not going to be led by his emotions or he is not going to get ahead of the Lord

C) He is going to honor God in all things!

1) He is going to make sure if this relationship is meant to be that it starts off on the right foot.

Ch. 4 is about Redemption

A) The terms buy, redeem, redemption are used over 15 times in this chapter

B) Boaz is a picture of Jesus – Redeem something, to pay the price in order to ultimately set it free.

V.1 Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down.

Act 4 S 1 - Gates- Town center – City hall – Elders sat – court was held, - legal matters were dealt with –

A) Come aside friend – not told name? Loser? Not embarrass? – Doesn't matter

2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down.

A) This shows the kind of man Boaz is and the amount of influence he was in the city –

B) Boaz here take charge. He starts telling everybody what to do. He's a leader.

1) He's a guy who takes charge – has a plan.

C) I have a legal matter to deal with – need you guys present

1) Boaz is an honorable godly business man

3 Then he said to the close relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech. 4 And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you.'"

D) He has RIGHT OF 1ST REFUSAL- that is the idea.

V.4b- And he said "I will redeem it."

A) This is emphatic in the Hebrew – I will redeem it!

Sounds good to me –

B) He is probably thinking – Naomi is old past the child bearing age –

C) I buy the field – she dies – my assets are enlarged — this is a good business decision. No brainer

D) So he says – I will redeem it – and all of the Romantics in the room – gasp - NO

1) We have been rooting for Boaz and Ruth to get together – since she wandered into his field in ch. 2

E) We watched him take a liking to her! – wedding bells have been playing in our ears – now this is going to ruin it.

F) BUT RELAX – BOAZ has a backup plan!

5 Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance." {that was smooth Boaz}

6 And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

The guys was thinking – more land more assets – I have everything already divided up with my kids.

A) This land will just sweeten the pot – however to take responsibility for Ruth – complicate things

B) No thanks – My portfolio is set and I don't want to mess it up.

This guy was interested in the field – but not the bride.

A) Boaz by contrast - did not care about the field – he just wanted Ruth the bride.

B) This is a way that Boaz is a picture of Jesus!

1) Jesus told a parable about a man who was walking through a field and found a treasure – Matt. 13:44

C) He went and sold everything he had to purchase the field in order to get the treasure.

D) That is how Jesus sees us - the world is the field – we are the treasure that is in the field –

1) Jesus is not so much interested in the field as He is the treasure that is in the field.

E) He came to redeem the field in order to get the treasure – the Bride

Boaz a picture of Jesus

Boaz was a near kinsman

➤ Jesus is our nearest kinsman

Boaz was able to redeem

➤ Jesus was able to redeem us (sinless)

Boaz was willing to redeem

➤ Jesus was willing to redeem to get us as a bride.

"Jesus paid a debt that he didn't owe, because we owed a debt that we couldn't pay."- Charles Spurgeon

7 Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel.

8 Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself." So he took off his sandal.

The taking off of the sandal signified a method of legalizing transactions- version of a notary

A)Because they would walk the property – the meaning of the sandal related to property rights

B)I have your shoe – signifies our deal is set – I have the power to walk the property.

1)I have sovereignty over property rights—

C)Some little girl reading this said – no wonder women didn't do land deals

1)that would be a fashion disaster – all these people running around with mismatched sandals

9 And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi. 10 Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day."

Here's what he's saying,

A)I will buy the land. I'll take care of Naomi. I'll marry Ruth.

B) I will honor her deceased husband. We will have a child.

1)The First born son of Boaz and Ruth would belong to Mahlon The family line will not die.

C)I'll perpetuate it. I'm Boaz. I'll fix everything."

Boaz is willing to invest in the bigger plan of God – preserve this family

A)To get the bride – He has no idea – what God has in store for this child

B)We need more people today like Boaz – Our problem is we are too self-interested.

1)If it doesn't benefit me somehow – then I am not going to participate in it.

C)Fail to see how we are investing in the Kingdom plan of God –

1)We may not see a dividend here on earth

D)But we will in eternity.

Tithing: God says – All you have is from me

A)You are stewards of 90% - but I want you to give 10% back – invest in the kingdom

B)Invest in what I am doing through your local church.

1)So many Christians today – resist that

C)Don't see the Big picture – Don't trust God

D)Boaz is willing to trust the Lord and invest in the way of God – I will redeem – get Ruth

1)Perpetuate this family – not knowing God has a bigger plan in store for this Kid.

11 And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said, "We are witnesses. The Lord make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; {12 sons between the two of them} and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. {they have no idea they are speaking prophetically}

12 May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the Lord will give you from this young woman."

A)Tamar is an interesting story- Genesis 38 Judah had a son married to Tamar – he died –

B)according to the Levirate law – Judah's next son had to marry Tamar – but he also died

C)By this time – Judah is thinking – this gal is the Black widow or something – she is bad luck

1)So He refuses his youngest son – Not risking another son to this women

So Tamar hears that Judah her father-in-law is going to another city on business

A)She seems to know what kind of guy he is – because she goes ahead to that city

B)She dresses up as a prostitute and when Judah sees her – interested

1) sleeps with her – forgot my wallet – leave your staff and signet ring – until next time pay me – return

Well Tamar goes back home – and discovers she is pregnant from this sexual encounter with Judah

A) That is what he was hoping for.

B) Judah finds out that his daughter in law is pregnant – no idea he is the dad –

1) Or that she was the prostitute he slept with

C) He wants her punished – Pregnant out of wedlock

1) Who is the father - She produces the Staff and ring – BUSTED

D) The son produced from that union is named Perez

1) Who needs Soap opera of reality TV – just read your Bibles people. – Fascinating

So why do the people bring up this story as an example?

A) This is an ugly story, an embarrassment to have in your family tree – reads like a Jerry Springer episode

B) From the sordid union of Tamar and Judah came twins Zerah and Perez

C) The line of Perez was fruitful, producing most of the Bethlehemites,

1) including the families of Boaz and Naomi's late husband El-ee-MEH-lek.

D) Another testimony of how God brings beauty from Ashes and despair – **Lots of death/despair Ruth's story**

Act 4 Scene 1 ends on that note: Blessings decreed

A) Movie – Snapshots – A wedding V.13 **13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her,**

B) We get A glimpse of the celebration – a honeymoon. Screen Fades –

1) 9 months later appears on the screen

C) New Snapshot – Ruth is giving birth - **the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son. Note that:**

The Lord gave her conception –

D) She had been married to Mahlon for a number of years – how many kids? – Zero

E) But they were praying and trusting God to open her woman and let her be a mother.

1) God answered that prayer!

Act 4 Scene 2 – The Blessing / the Celebration

14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel!

15 And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him." 16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him.

Note: They said to Naomi –

A) Ruth pushed – exhausted – they understood – this child was going to carry on the family name.}

B) This child would be a blessing to Naomi in her old age.

1) Aren't grand kids the best – I love my grandson so much – makes me cry – Amazing kid

C) This little boy was going to light up Naomi's world.

17 Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

D) Obed = worshipper of God or servant of God

Obed was a blessing to Boaz and Ruth.

A) This was no ordinary baby, for it was God's special gift to Boaz and Ruth;

Obed would bring blessing to Bethlehem.

A) The child would bring fame to both the family name and the name of his native town.

B) Elimelech's name almost disappeared from Israel, but Obed would make that name famous and bring glory to Bethlehem.

Obed was also a blessing to Naomi.

A) His grandmother gets to take care of him and love on him.

B) Obed would bring blessing to Israel.

1) Obed was the grandfather of King David, one of Israel's greatest rulers.

Obed would bring blessing to the whole world.

A) From this line would come – The messiah – Jesus – born 1200 years later in this obscure little village –

B) Bethlehem = House of Bread

C) Born the one who declared I am the bread of life
Hungry – come to me!

The Genealogy of Perez really of Jesus – watch the screen read v.18-22

Perez – (who's parents were Tamar and Judah) begot or fathered Hezron

Hezron begot Ram, Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nashon, and Nashon begot Salmon, Salmon (who married Rahab the prostitute) begot Boaz, Boaz (who married Ruth the Moabitess) begot Obed, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David. Add Matthew 1:7 And David begot Solomon with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah.

Now this is the genealogy of Jesus – his family tree

A) You think you have a weird family tree.

B) The family tree of Jesus includes

- Incest
- Prostitution
- Racial diversity
- Adultery
- Murder

C) Not ashamed to call us his brethren

What does all of this teach us about God?

A) #1 God is not afraid of Messy! – We don't pick our relatives BUT JESUS DID his family

B) See God is not afraid of Messy!

God is able to redeem the messy parts of our lives and use them for His glory.

A) No matter the MESS – JESUS can clean it up
Beauty for Ashes – Broken to a masterpiece

#2 This Genealogy reminds us that – the Past doesn't have to be the end of your story!

A) You can rise up with the help of Jesus out of the Ashes – write a new chapter

B) You and I don't have to be defined by our past.

1) Our past should not be an excuse for poor behavior

C) Live a life with Jesus that has redemptive Value

Matthew West Mended- God's view of us

When you see broken beyond repair
I see healing beyond belief
When you see too far gone
I see one step away from home
When you see nothing but damaged goods
I see something good in the making
I'm not finished yet
When you see wounded, I see mended

#3 It reminds us that Jesus came to save Sinners!

A) He was actually called the friend of sinners in Matthew 11:9

B) I love the story of the conversion of Matthew – Matthew throws a party

1) Tax collector buddies – riff raft – the came with them – ill repute of society – worst of the worst

C) Jesus is smack dab in the middle of all of them

1) No recorded sermon – no confrontation – just there
religious leaders question it – can't comprehend it

³⁰ And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, "Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

³¹ Jesus answered and said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Luke 5:30-32

This is So Key: Jesus doesn't see Bad or Good – Right or Wrong -

A) He sees - Sick or Well

B) We are all Sick – Disease called Sin

1) Sin – Missed the Mark – Perfection

C) Jesus left heaven came to this earth – born of a woman – BABY – Our Kinsman redeemer

1) Sinless life to be a sinless sacrifice

D) Grow to a man Help sinners / the disconnected get connected to God.

The Cross completed the work.

A) If you're reliving the failures of yesterday, last Monday, or last month, you're missing the Good News of the gospel.

B) The genealogy of Jesus says, "I'm doing something new."

C) Go your way rejoicing, saint. You have been included in His family.

D) If you are not in the family - you can be today! - PRAY