

Deliverer Needed Series

“Ruth: A Picture of Redemption”

Ruth 1-4

Introduction – read Ruth 2:8-10

This week we are looking at the book of Ruth

- this Wednesday Night we are going to see the book in its entirety
 - and it is a classic
 - deemed one of the great short stories in human history, even by none Bible people
- And the overall theme of the book is Redemption

We use the word redemption all the time

- we use it to describe when we make up for some mistake
 - I totally messed up when I first talked to that client, but then I got redemption
- We use it in sports
 - Man that guy missed 5 3-pointers in a row, but that last one was critical and he totally redeemed himself
- We even take our cans and bottles and newspapers down to the “Redemption Centers”

Picture of Redemption Center - Here is me visiting Dave Clark at his other job, redeeming my can for fast cash – that is not Dave, and that’s not me – those are Pepsi cans, so you know that is not me

- **picture of Diet Coke 2** – now this is me checking on my home supply of Diet Coke
 - anyway – back to our study
 - redemption, redemption, redemption

We use the word all the time, but what does it really mean?

“Redeem” means to buy back

Today we have lost much of the understanding of what it means to be redeemed

- the culture the New Testament was written to those would have less of a problem understanding the concept of redemption for in their culture
 - every Greek City, in the center of the city was the Agora – **Picture of the Agora**
 - The Agora was center of the city - the place where many things were bought and sold – primarily for slaves – 3 words to describe different transactions

When you made a purchase the word was Agorazo

- it is the one of the words in Greek for redemption – and it meant to purchase for a time

Agorazo – to purchase for a time, to employ

- but it is not the one the bible uses
- there was a second word for redemption and it was exagorazo

Exagorazo – to purchase forever

- which meant you bought a slave never to bring him back again
 - but if it was forever, it was exagorazo

But there was a third word used in Greek lutroo

Lutroo – to purchase in order to set free

(lie true oh), which doesn’t mean to purchase for a time, it doesn’t mean to make a slave forever, but it means to purchase a slave in order to set them free

- and that is the word the Bible uses to describe what God accomplished through His birth, His death, and His resurrection for you and me
 - He has bought us, in order to set us free
 - He has saved us from the slavery to sin and its effects and made us citizens of His Kingdom
 - That is redemption – it’s amazing

Well Jason I’m glad you think that is amazing, but Agorazo and exagorazo and lutroo – it’s all Greek to me

- Well good news the Father's knows we are not prone to be experts in Theology
 - That most of us, myself included, are not given to be experts linguistically
- That is why so often God speaks to us through pictures and stories to help us understand so many deep theological ideas

And there is no greater story that illustrates what "Lutroo", redemption really looks like, what redemption is really all about than the story of Ruth

- as we continue in our Sunday Morning series "Deliverer Needed"
 - this week we focus on Ruth who was definitely in need a of deliverer

Again on Wednesday we are going to look at her life in its entirety

- It is one of the most beautiful love stories in all of the Bible
 - And because I only appealed to about half of the audience this morning – most guys here that think – nope, not coming to that
 - It is also a great look into Jewish history at another side of what was happening during the time of the Judges
 - Not all was evil and dark – and Ruth gives us great insight into that truth
- So we will explore that book this Wednesday

But for this morning, I want to look at the book of Ruth as it is a picture of Redemption – and I believe for you who have ears to hear, it will produce in you an appreciation of both the simplicity and the significance of our redemption – we will see...

Ruth – A Picture of Redemption

#1 – The Need for Redemption – Ruth 1:1-7

#2 – The Reason for Redemption – Ruth 2:1-12

#3 – The Results of Redemption – Ruth 4:13-17

#4 – The Response of Redemption – Ruth 2:8-10

- Let's look at those one at a time

Ruth – A picture of Redemption

#1 – The Need for Redemption – Ruth 1:1-7

- Let's look at those one at a time

The story surrounds a happy little family

- why do I say they were – because of their names
 - "Elimelech" – means "God is my king"
 - "Naomi" – "pleasant thing"
- So a Husband whose name means – God is my King, I am following him and his cute little wife, named pleasant thing

This nice little family lived in Bethlehem, Judah

- there were a few Bethlehem's in the nation of Israel, this is telling you it's the one you think it is – the Bethlehem in Judah, future birth place of Christ

Bethlehem – means, "house of bread"

Judah – means, "The place of praise"

- so this nice family lives in the house of the bread and the place of praise
 - but all is not well
 - there is a famine in the land
- the opening verse tells us this story happened in the time of the Judges
 - and this famine indicates that most likely this story happened during the time of Gideon
 - we will explore why we think that on Wednesday but

But famine had crashed in on Elimelech and his perfect family

- but instead of staying put, he leaves for Moab

Now because of this famine, this family leaves the house of bread and place of praise and they head to Moab

- now Moab is not seen in great light in scripture – we will see why on Wednesday Night

- but it is said of them by God in

Psalm 108, “Moab is my wash pot” – literally that is “Moab is my toilet bowl” – that’s what God says of their condition

- And so this family leaves the place of praise, the house of bread, because things are getting a little difficult, and they decide, hey, let’s go swim around a little bit in the toilet bowl
 - Isn’t that amazing – isn’t that just like you and me

When times are tuff, when my devotions are dry, I guess I just tune into cable TV and swim around in the toilet bowl for a while – I guess I take a break from church – and try the world for a season

- Instead of praying it through, waiting upon the Lord, they packed it up – and headed to Moab, because they heard there was no famine there – we will be satisfied there – we will be happy there
 - I’m sure they meant to just make it a quick trip, but they ended up spending 10 years there – and friends this is what happens – you journey off to Moab and you think I will just do this for a day or two or a month or three – but you end up with years gone by – and then came tragedy

We read, verse 3, Naomi’s husband dies, this is what happens, “God is King” always dies in Moab

- if I am swimming in the toilet bowl of the world, I can not say God is King
 - but the pain wasn’t over, then we read, and then the two sons, they took Moabite wives.

Let that sink in – mom, Dad, when we venture into Moab, when we kick back, when we pull away, you know who pays the price so often – our kids

- We don’t have time for the Lord, and yet we think I’m doing okay in the toilet bowl, but what about junior, what about your daughter, they are getting involved in things they shouldn’t because Mom and Dad moved away from the house of bread and the place of praise and started swimming around in the toilet bowl

They married these two girls, and then they died

- Now you have three widows
 - And in our culture that is tough place to be in
 - But in that culture it was the end of the world
 - No one left to provide, no husband or son to take care of you
 - Your property rights, your ability to live was in doubt

But then, while in her misery, Naomi hears that God is blessing in Israel and she realizes she needs to get back to Bethlehem, back to the place of praise

- And don’t let it escape your attention it was her loss that brought her to her senses
 - And we see so clearly in this – God was not punishing her for her sin
 - She is losing her husbands and sons and the first thing we think is – well you chose to leave Israel and God is mad
- But in reality – God loves Naomi, God has a plan for her and Ruth
 - And God allows the tragedy not to punish her, but to get her back to the house of bread and the place of praise because He loves her

It is not punitive but corrective – it is to get her back on track, back to Bethlehem And so too with you and me

- Our losses are never punishment – you know why???
- Because punishment for your sin and my sin has already been met out at the cross – Jesus died for my sin and yours
- We can’t pay the price for our sins
- If God was punishing us for sin – we would be consumed
 - So our losses are not punitive, but corrective

Naomi wakes up – I am heading back to the House of Bread

- so she returns, one of her two daughters in law, Ruth, with her, she returns to Israel
 - but now this once prosperous, happy family, is poor, desperately needy, in need of someone to help them
 - They are in need of a savior, in need of Redemption

And really this is such a great picture of what happens in all of our lives

- we think we are okay, we are in need of nothing
 - I can do whatever I want, live any way I want – I am the captain of my own ship
 - And then tragedy hits and we realize
- I need to get to or come back toward the house of bread and place of praise
 - But we can't do it on our own
 - The losses, because of our sin, are too deep for us to make up for
 - We need a deliverer, we need a savior
- And praise God we have one and His name is Jesus
 - Naomi and Ruth find a deliverer as well and his name is Boaz
 - Chapter 2 verse one we are introduced to him

Ruth – A picture of Redemption

#1 – The Need for Redemption – Ruth 1:1-7

#2 – The Reason for Redemption – Ruth 2:1-12

- Ruth comes to the field of a man by the name of Boaz

And the Bible wants us to notice this guy

- We are introduced to him in verse one of chapter two where he is described as...

“a man of great wealth” – NKJV

“a man of standing” – NIV

“a wealthy and influential man” – NLT

“a worthy man” – ESV

- I mention and draw your attention to these different translations because I want you to understand the Bible is saying much more than this guy was loaded with cash
 - This man had great standing in his community, he had lots of money for sure, but he also had lots of influence
 - This man was worthy
- And I think that translation does the best to explain the Hebrew description of him

For what the Bible is saying is Boaz is worthy for us to notice and emulate in our lives

- I mean not only does he have a great name – Bo
 - Does that just draw up connotations in your mind ladies of **Dukes of Hazard – pic of Bo**

- So not only does he have a great name, but Bo is a man worthy for you and I to imitate

And the first thing I think we should notice about him is what a great boss he is

- Boaz the boss comes in and says – “The Lord bless you, and these blue collar field workers respond – and the Lord bless you boss

Not like your work day huh? – the boss comes in – The love of Jesus Christ be upon you – and you all stick up your heads around the corner, out from behind your desks like a group of prairie dogs – oh – the love of Jesus Christ be upon you –

- No – you are probably thinking right now - well my boss uses the words “Jesus” and “Christ” but its not really a blessing when my boss says it
 - Yeah this is not my experience at all
 - But Boaz is a great boss
- Boaz was a blessing to work with
 - But his being a blessing didn't stop there

He was a blessing to Ruth

- Boaz is not just a blessing to work for

- Boaz is a blessing to Ruth
- He sees this young gal, who has had some hard times – she is not all dressed up at the club, she is dirty from working in the field
 - Formerly married
 - Totally broke
- And Boaz does whatever he can to bless her
 - Just stay in my field and take whatever you like
 - He, verse 16 actually tells his reapers to purposely leave chunks of grain on the ground for her
 - He feeds her, provides for her
- Protects her
 - He lets all his young men know – you see that Moabite girl – yeah I do (deviously)
- Well if you touch her all I'm saying is I own large fields and they will never find your body, am I clear – I will go Old Testament all over you – are we clear – crystal ball – where did the Lord bless you go? – the Lord will be all you have left to bless you if you touch that girl – understood?

And the best part to all of this for me is we will see later in the book he has no idea that she would be interested in him

- this is no ploy to get her, this is not setting himself up to woo her
 - this is how he treats everyone in her condition is the indication of the text
 - He is just a blessing

Now one of the things I used to get asked all the time especially as a former youth pastor is, “what does the Bible have to say about dating?”

- And it is really a tough question because they didn't date in the Bible
 - for the most part, marriages were arranged and they were arranged young
 - there was certainly not the American system of dating or even courtship in the Bible
- but do we have something to model from the scriptures
 - the answer to that is yes

On Wednesday we will take a couple of minutes and look at Boaz being a blessing to this young girl who will eventually become his wife as a great model for young men and women

- parents encourage your kids to be here
 - you be here and bring them – anyway

Ruth comes to glean in the field of Boaz

- Gleaning was God's welfare system in the Bible – those that owned land could only go through and harvest once, and anything left over they were to leave for the poor to come and glean
 - It was a great system, those that had much gave to those who had little, but at the same time the poor retained their dignity in working for their food

But as Ruth was gleaning, Boaz comes into the field

- And he is going to eventually redeem this girl and her mother in law Naomi
 - And it introduces to us the subject of the Kinsman redeemer in the Bible
- You see, land and continuing a family name, were important to Jewish people
 - And so there were provisions in the law
 - If a married man died without have any kids – his brother was to marry his dead brother's wife and raise up an heir for his brother
 - Now that would have lead to some interesting conversations at the dinner table – you are going to marry who – oh no – she is a girl with a great personality

But not only would you marry the girl and raise up an heir in your brother's name

- you would also buy his property and give it to the child when he or she was of age
 - so really it was a financial hardship to undertake

- it wasn't just hooking up with a new girl and having a baby
- it was paying for land that one day you would hand to someone else
 - But Boaz is going to willingly do this for Ruth and Naomi
 - But why – why for this girl from Moab, a nation outside of Israel, you know how they felt back then, why would he go through all of this

Why – Even Ruth wants to know???

- Why would you show such kindness to a Moabite girl

And here is the answer – there is no reason, it's grace – unearned unmerited favor – its grace!

- and grace is the reason for redemption
 - true for Ruth, true for you and me

Why did Jesus redeem you?

- why did He go to a cross and pay the price for your sin and mine
 - people who turn their back on him, turn away from him – why
- God did it simply, plainly, just because He loved you, because He loved me
 - It was grace

Oh we will read in the story that Boaz was blessed that Ruth was kind to Naomi, He was blessed that she should be interested in him versus the younger guys

- But that was no reason to put himself in such a place with a woman who was a foreigner
 - Boaz did it simply because of grace, unearned favor

And I want you to see this again, because God is teaching us – picturing for us what redemption is through this book of Ruth

- We needed redemption – we were needy
 - there is no other way for you and I who have gone our way, who have taken a swim or two or ten or ten thousand
 - We need a redeemer – and we have one who is willing and able in Jesus Christ
- But why does Jesus redeem us?

Oh He is blessed that you are kind to people, especially His people – I know He blesses because we bless Israel

- Oh God is blessed when you and I show interest in Him – when we get up to read His word, and spend time in His presence
 - But He does not redeem you because you are nice to people, because you bless Israel or because you get up and spend time in His Word

Jesus has redeemed you because He is simply in love with you

- He has been struck by you and He is in love
 - And He has given up everything so you can be with Him
- And it is not because you deserve it, it is plain old, down right grace – unearned, unmerited favor lavished upon the infinitely ill-deserving - grace
 - He did it just for you

I am reminded of the parable of the treasure hidden in the field – Matthew 13:44 – “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” – Matthew 13:44

- The man gave all he had to gain the field, but it wasn't in order to buy another field, he was after the treasure in the field
 - And Boaz didn't need another field – but he redeemed the field to gain the treasure
 - It was grace

And Jesus had paid the price, the ultimate price to redeem the world

- not because His Kingdom wasn't big enough and He needed another world
 - but because He wanted the treasure, you and me

Why???? – We are Moabitish women – we are foreigners, we are from the toilet bowl

- why does He redeem us
 - Why would He give up everything, become a baby, grow up and die for me – why???
 - Its just because He wants to – its grace

We think God got some great deal when He got us

- the truth is, God said – Hey look at Jason over there, he is pretty weak, he is pretty foolish,
 - He is broke, beat down, lost
 - Yes – let's set our love upon Him – He will do just fine
- And the reason God does it this way is then He gets the glory for our lives

But Jesus deserves the glory, because whether we realize it or not, whether we see it or not

- He is the hero, he is our deliverer
 - Ruth is not the hero
 - She is beat down, she is broke, she is begging
 - And Bo shows up and lavishes blessings upon her
 - The same thing happened to you and me
- Jesus is our hero, our deliverer
 - He is our savior
 - Are we clear on that???
 - This is where you respond Calvary Chapel Vista
 - Are we clear on that??
- He has saved us and what happens when He saves us, not we try and figure out how to make it all work, but when He saves us
 - What happens???

Ruth – A picture of Redemption

#1 – The Need for Redemption – Ruth 1:1-7

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#3 – The Results of Redemption – Ruth 4:13-17

- Boaz redeems Ruth
 - Buys the property that belonged to Naomi's husband and her sons - Raises up an heir to inherit that property someday
- And what happens in the life of Ruth because of redemption?

#1 – Ruth falls deep in love with Boaz

- what started as interested attraction becomes the love of a lifetime
 - Why – because of redemption
 - Because Ruth understood she needed it, and she understood she didn't deserve it
- And what it produced in Ruth was a deep love for her redeemer
 - The same response needs to be ours

Jesus has redeemed us – He has blessed us beyond anything we can ask or think

- But it should produce a response – it should make us love Him
 - I see how God has blessed me – I see the gifts, the talents, the fruit, and I see my heart, I love God, but I am not the most faithful, I am not most qualified – but I sometimes walk in my office after a service and I just can't help but cry, that God would work through a sinner like me

I hope you feel the same – that you are a sinner, yes we do – no – that God has just blessed you – He has saved you – Thank you – I love you so much

- Would you take some time this week to get away for an hour, drive by the beach and just think about how God had freed you from your sins
 - And worship him
 - Grow in the love with him
 - It's the right response to redemption

- Take some time this week to reflect and fall deeper in love with your redeemer

#1 – Ruth falls deep in love with Boaz

#2 – Ruth becomes part of Jesus' family

- Jesus? – what are you talking about
- The end of the book tells us Ruth and Boaz have a baby named Obed, and Obed will have a baby named Jesse and Jesse will have a Baby named David

David of course as we will see in the next book we will study – I Samuel - will become King over Israel – who will receive a promise that His great, great, great... grandson would be the Messiah – and down the line – Jesus comes from David, from Ruth – she is in the family of the Messiah

- And oh don't you see it, don't you realize it
 - What God has done for you and me
 - He has redeemed us
- We needed it so desperately
 - We didn't deserve it – He gave it to us by grace
- But the result is I love Him, but it more than passion, it is position as His redemption puts me in His family

Ruth was a Moabite woman, she never thought she would be in God's family

- but she was
 - and you and me – we can also be in God's family – but we must be redeemed
 - so what do we do
- I mean – it's all grace, it's all His work right?
 - So does that mean we have no part to play?
- We just sit back and receive the blessing from our Bo, from our Boaz, Jesus Christ?
 - Well there is something you can do in the meantime
 - Look back with me at chapter 2, verse 8 and we will be done

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- Boaz is the hero, Boaz does the work
 - But now Ruth – you stay in His field and with His people!!!

Ruth is so blessed God has led her to the field of Boaz

- but now you listen to me girl – Boaz says, then Naomi reiterates later
 - you stay in His field!
 - don't go venturing off to see if the pickins are as good in this as in other fields
 - don't do what I did and end up in Moab the toilet bowl
- Don't you start hanging out with the servants of another master
 - You stay in His field and stay with His people and you will continue to be blessed

Oh precious church we need to hear this

- Jesus is our hero
 - He chose you not because of anything you had done
 - He wasn't blessed by party dress and your make up
 - He wasn't wooed by your beauty
- When He choose you, you were beat down, tired, broke and begging
 - And He lavished His blessing upon us
 - All true
- And His redemption of you and me is because of what He has done for you and your belief in Him and what He has done

But that doesn't mean that you don't have a part to play in continuing to walk with Him

- now that you have received His blessing
 - you need to stay in His blessings
 - how??
- By staying in His field and with His people!

He has given us a fertile field full of blessings

- His Word my friends

I don't know about others, but the reason in almost every sermon, I get around to encouraging you to read your Bible and pray everyday

- Is not because it makes God love you more and makes you more saved

It is because I have found, there is no field like this field - It is always full of blessing

- I don't know about you, but I have read this book many times
 - At least every year since I was 12 that would make 24 times if you are keeping track
 - There have been seasons in Bible college that I have read it every four months, 3 times a year
- And I say that not to impress you, but so you will understand, there is not a passage where I go wow I have never read that before, like some of you newer believers
 - Some of you have no idea what is coming in Ruth chapter 3 on Wednesday and when you read that Ruth sneaks in Boaz's bed and lays at his feet some of you are going to say, scandalous – I thought this girl was pure – we will get into that on Wednesday
 - But some of you when you read this book this week – that will shock you at first
- But I don't have those experiences anymore

But, oh this field, every day I get up to read, ever afternoon I pick it up, every night when I let it speak into my heart, there is always something fresh

- and it seems to always speak to right where I am at, or right to someone I love and care about and I can call them up and send them a message
 - and there is no field like this field – I keep encouraging you this way, not to shame you, I am jealous for you to know this too

Because there is something devious in us that thinks, well I know the Word of God is alive and powerful and profitable for all I need for life and godliness

- but this field over here – what is happening in this field? – oh this one over here, wow, that makes me feel a little funny, I like that field

The enemy sets a trap and tricks us to go over to this field or that field where we think we are going to find fulfillment and blessing

- but instead of blessing we end up barfing
 - we end up with no blessing, we end up begging God to save us from our stupidity
 - oh listen precious people of Calvary Chapel Vista
 - Stay in His field
 - I know the sound of the sirens blaring from tere and they promise such wonderful things
 - But there is no field like His

Stay in His field

- stay with His people
 - His people? – now listen – I know His Word, His field, His Kingdom, well it is perfect and it is what I need
 - But His people – what is such a blessing about that sinner over there or that headache sitting over there
 - Why with His people??

Because precious ones as we have been considering, God knows what He is doing

- and the longer you walk down this road of life, what you see is that God puts people in your life, people in your path

- that at times rub you the wrong way, at times they irritate you

But after a while you start to realize I need these people to shape me into who God wants me to be

- I need those in my family, I need those in my church to bless and irritate, to encourage and tear down to complete this work in my heart and in my life

But God would say to some of us today – you want to be blessed

- listen I choose you for blessing, not because of anything you had done – all my work
 - but now that you are redeemed – you need to stay in my blessing
 - you need to stay in my field, with my people
- precious church hear me on this
 - We are saved by grace, you didn't deserve it

But now – listen to the old maid Naomi – you stay in his field, you stay with his people

- You learn from Naomi who realized she went out full and came back empty – nothing good dwells out there
 - You stay with Jesus!
 - Because there is no one like Him

Just like Boaz has done for Ruth, Jesus has done for you

- He has set His favor upon you – Boaz says to his workers, I want you Boaz to just throw handfuls of blessing on purpose on the ground, just for her
 - You do that one purpose
 - Then stay in His field, and stay with His people
 - Lets pray