

Ruth 4

v1-2

“Ho! Turn aside and sit down here. So he turned aside and sat down.”

“And Boaz took ten men of the elders of the city and said, Sit down here. And they sat down.”

- Boaz is thorough in his actions. He has gone to the seat of governance. It is where the elders and leaders would meet to discuss business and rule.
- The gate was a public place where all would/could pass by. It is not a secret/hidden work. This is an open, publicly recorded transaction.
- Mark 16:15 *And he said unto them, Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*
- Romans 1:3-4 [The Gospel] regarding His Son, Who as to the flesh (His human nature) was descended from David, [4] And [as to His divine nature] according to the Spirit of holiness was openly designated the Son of God in power [in a striking, triumphant and miraculous manner] by His resurrection from the dead, even Jesus Christ our Lord (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

v3-4

“in the presence of those sitting here and before the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then say so, that I may know; for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I am [next of kin] after you.”

- Boaz shows great respect for the law, the kinsman and the elders and his humility to honour them and revere them cannot be denied. Boaz is fulfilling the laws demands.
- There is also no doubt about his intention or reason for this meeting. No confusion or anything underhand.
- Matthew 5:15-19 [15] *Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. [16] Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. [17] Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. [18] For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*

“And he said, I will redeem it.”

- It is interesting to notice how willing and swift the kinsman was to accept this offer without Ruth.
- Was it an attractive investment opportunity? Or was he truly kind and considerate of Elimelech's household?
- GILL: *he chose to make the purchase, he liked the land, which he probably full well knew, and it might lie near his own, and make a good addition to it; and as the widow was determined, and under a necessity to sell, he might expect to have it at a cheap rate; all which might induce him at once to agree to be the purchaser.*

v6

“And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest [by marrying a Moabitess] I endanger my own inheritance.

- It is suggested that this kinsman was already married. So having to marry Ruth would bring contention to his household and complication in the division of inheritance. His resources and time during his life would be spent over two plots and ultimately his own inheritance to his children would suffer.
- We don't know the specifics of this man's situation, but we know that his concern was for his own family and his own posterity.

“for I cannot redeem it.”

- He was not able. It is a blessing that we do not know the exact reason. The point being that this nearer kinsman was not able. He did not have the desire or the ability to redeem the gentile. He had the right and the responsibility but not the desire or ability.
- RITCHIE: *Note these scriptures - Galatians 2:16, Galatians 3:11 and Galatians 3:13. Yes this kinsman had the prerogative to redeem but not the passion. Oh, how wonderful that it took a man called Jesus to have passion and to go all the way to Calvary giving His life a ransom for many.*
- Only Jesus Christ himself is the kinsman Redeemer. Religion, a false church or the Law cannot redeem. Though related closer in the flesh. In the flesh anything that encourages fleshly effort and works is appealing as it takes glory from Christ and brings glory and praise to man. It is a closer relative... It is perhaps a logical or understandable option or belief system... But, as we will see, our lives will prove that this fleshly kinsman cannot or will not redeem! The closer kinsman is powerless to bring us into communion with God; powerless to save from sin; powerless to bring us into newness of life!! Jesus Christ alone is the Redeemer and all that we need is in Him!

v9-10

“Also Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife to restore the name of the dead to his inheritance”

- Boaz holds the people to account as witnesses. There will be doubt or quarrel in the future. There is a sale and a receipt.
- This point is often overlooked as we tend to focus so much on Ruth and her marriage to Boaz. But the greater story here is the redemption of Elimelech's inheritance and the continuation of His name and line. This is an incredible and precious provision, especially considering that he had left his inheritance to go to Moab. It is a beautiful portrayal of the gospel and our secured inheritance.
- Boaz was not merely trying to gain a younger wife!! He was restoring a household in Israel!! He was preserving his brother's name and testimony! He was bring Ruth into the fellowship of God and His people!

v11-12

“And all the people at the gate and the elders said, We are witnesses.”

- They declared and confessed themselves witnesses to the works of Boaz. They approved of the transaction and acknowledged its legitimacy. Their lives and community would now live/walk in the reality of this.
- As a people they accepted the union/marriage of Boaz and Ruth. They approved and celebrated it. They warmly welcomed Ruth into community and fellowship. The stranger was no longer a stranger but family. The Gentile was now of Israel.
- Acts 22:15 *For you will be His witness unto all men of everything that you have seen and heard.*

“May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your house like Rachel and Leah,”

- May she be fruitful and faithful. May her seed be a people set apart unto The Lord who walk in His ways and are a testimony unto the whole earth for Him. May her offspring be the people of God from whose seed will come the Messiah!

“and be famous in Bethlehem.”

- What an incredible prophecy. We can safely assume that this was said as a general and kind blessing with no thought/knowledge of the mighty work of God to come. What an incredible thing to have recorded in scripture hundreds of years before Jesus!

“And let your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah,”

- Perez, like Solomon, came from a relationship that was not meant to be.

- Perez (also in the genealogy of Jesus Christ), like Solomon is a precious example of the love, mercy and grace of God. An example of the beauty and restitution that The Lord will bring about from repentance and submission to Himself. Our God is a God of welcome, a God who desires His children. He is longing for “all men, everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30) and come into fellowship with Himself. It’s beautiful that they mention Perez for how could they have known that just like Perez, Ruth would be in the genealogy of the Messiah.

- They are in essence saying that though Ruth is a stranger from Moab, may the same mighty favour, grace and testimony of The Lord be upon their household.

v14-15

“Blessed be the Lord, Who has not left you this day without a close kinsman, and may his name be famous in Israel.”

- Oh Hallelujah for we have not be left without a close kinsman who can redeem us and secure for us an inheritance and life everlasting in the promised land! Jesus Christ is our near kinsman! He is our Redeemer!!

“may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher and supporter in your old age,”

- John 10:10 ... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

- Romans 8:11 And if the Spirit of Him Who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, [then] He Who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also restore to life your mortal (short-lived, perishable) bodies through His Spirit Who dwells in you.

- Psalm 27:14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

- Truly The Lord restores us to life and strength; to usefulness and fruitfulness; to life from death and to joy from mourning. All that I am I owe to Him. He is all my life, my joy, my Salvation, my hope, my righteousness and my light. Jesus Christ is all that is good in me.

“for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him.”

- GILL: having now brought forth a son, heir to the estate, who would be more capable of doing for her than if she had seven sons living, having no other than their paternal estate.

v16-17

“They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David [the ancestor of Jesus Christ].”

- She had left Bethlehem. She had left The Lord. She had left her inheritance and she had lost everything! She had come back empty, broken and without hope. She had turned from The Lord and had come back living in the consequences of that life... But Naomi was now nursing in her arms a part of the genealogy of David and of Jesus.

- She was nursing in her arms a life for which she had longed. She was nursing the future of her family that she had lost. She was nursing the restoration of her lineage in Israel which until now had come to an end.

- Joel 2:25 And I will restore or replace for you the years that the locust has eaten...

- It is incredible and amazing to consider that no one considered this an amazing historical event at the time. This is a Hallmark movie. Country family moves to the city, city girl comes back to small town, meets rich farmer.