

“From Rags To Redemption”

Ruth 4:1-12

Sermon Series: “Ruth: A Story Of Romance And Redemption”

Introduction: Rocky illustration, review the story, talk about the meaning of the Kinsmen-Redeemer and read the text

Boaz is the Kinsmen-Redeemer, who paid the price to redeem and marry Ruth. However, he is a picture of Jesus. Here is the definition of Kinsmen-Redeemer, according to Revell Compact Bible Dictionary, “Under OT Law, the nearest male [blood] relative was obligated to avenge murder. If a member of his family was wrongfully slain, it was the duty of the *goel* to enact God’s justice, putting the murderer to death. If he possessed the financial resources, a near kinsman could also redeem a poor relative from slavery by paying the required debt. The kinsmen could even redeem a relative’s ‘sold’ property by paying what the relation owed. Boaz emerges as the classic OT example of the kinsmen-redeemer. Closely related to the family of Naomi (Ruth’s mother-in-law) he ‘purchases’ the family property by taking Ruth as his wife, so that their first son can be counted in the line of Ruth’s dead husband, rightful heir to the family land. Perhaps most important is the theological implication of kinsmen-redemption. Only a near relation is qualified to pay the price that frees an individual from slavery, or to buy back what he or she has lost.”

Transition: This isn’t just a Hallmark movie story. It is a romance, but there is a very profound spiritual undercurrent. All the Bible is about Jesus (Luke 24:44). Sometimes it is subtle. Other times, like this one, it jumps off the page at us. Jesus is our Kinsmen-Redeemer ultimately. Let’s look at that and how it applies to our lives.

Main Idea: Jesus is our Kinsman-Redeemer who became one of us in order to redeem us so that we can enter into union with Him and receive the inexhaustible riches of His grace.

1. Jesus became one of us (Hebrews 2:14-18, Philippians 2:5-11). This is theologically known as the Incarnation. Jesus is the eternal God, but He left

heaven and came to earth, born of the virgin Mary. He took on flesh and added deity to His humanity. He is fully God and fully human. He had to become one of us in order to die in our place as our substitute. The Kinsman-Redeemer was the closest male, blood relative. He had to be qualified, able, and willing to be the Redeemer. Because He is fully God and fully man and because He is sinless, He is qualified and able to save us. Thank God, He was also willing.

Opposite of superhero saviors

British pastor, Matthew Hosier, [writes about](#) a missionary friend who moved to a Muslim majority nation:

When we first moved to the Middle East we heard that on festival days everyone dresses in their best clothes and goes to visit their relatives and neighbors to celebrate. So, for our first Eid festival we carefully cleaned our apartment, dressed up in our best clothes, got some sweets and chocolates which are traditional to hand out to visitors and waited in our house. But no-one came to visit.

Another missionary explained what we did wrong: "On festival days, the small visit the big, and the big give out presents." For example, everyone in a family visits their eldest brother, or their parents, or grandparents. When they arrive they would kiss the hand of the older person to show respect and honor. The host would then care for their guests by feeding them, serving them, and giving them gifts like good quality chocolate, money, or other presents. As newly arrived foreigners without social standing or relatives, naturally no-one came to visit us. We are considered "small" by the culture, so we are the ones who need to do the visiting.

This incident made me ponder the awesomeness of the incarnation. In every other religion, humans (the small) try to visit God by their own strength and good works. But as much as we try to dress up nicely, we cannot be clean enough to enter his house without polluting and disrespecting it.

In the incarnation God decided to play the role both of the "small" and of the "big." He humbled himself totally to become "small" so that he could visit us in our squalid house. But also as the "big" he played the role of host and gave gifts—atonement, the Holy Spirit, and clean clothes—which means that as believers we are now appropriately dressed and thus free to enter his house without disrespecting it.

2. Jesus paid the price of giving His life in order to redeem us from our sins (Galatians 4:4-7). Boaz paid the price to redeem, which means buy back, what Elimelech's family had lost through the famine and their foolishness. Jesus paid the debt we owed God for our sins to redeem us from our slavery to sin and set us free as children of God.

(agorazo) To buy out of the slave market

Taken

3. Jesus brings us into union with Him through this redemption (2 Corinthians 5:17, Colossians 1:27, Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 5:22-33, John 15:4-5). Boaz paid a price to redeem them, and then he married Ruth. They entered into union together, and this pictures what happens to the believer. Millard Erickson points out three characteristics of our union with Christ. It is judicial in nature, which means that God sees us as righteous because we are in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21). It is spiritual because Christ indwells us through His Spirit (Romans 8:9-11). It is vital because He imparts His life to us (Romans 6:4-5). So we now are accounted righteous, live in Christ's strength, share in His sufferings, and will reign with Him (Romans 8:16-17).

Royal Wedding (Meghan Markle)

4. Jesus gives us the inexhaustible riches of His graces because we are united with Him. Ruth was poor. Boaz was wealthy. However, when they entered into the marriage union, she became wealthy because everything that belonged to him now belonged to her without her having to work for it. That is grace, and that is what Jesus does for us spiritually (2 Corinthians 8:9, Romans 5:20, Ephesians 1:3-14, 2:4-9).

Examples of misers

Conclusion: Stop working for the leftovers on the edge of the field and become spiritually rich through entering into a spiritual union with Jesus through the grace of God. He became one of us in order to redeem us so we can have the blessings of God in our lives (see verses on sheet).