

Sermon Manuscript for “Redemption’s Romance – Part 2”



***Last week we met Naomi, Ruth and Boaz.**

Naomi and her daughter in law Ruth fled a famine and the deaths of their husbands in Moab to return to Naomi's home of Bethlehem.

Naomi felt that all this loss and hardship was a sign that God had turned against her. Through is all though, Ruth never left her side.

Ruth goes into the fields to find food for them, where she meets Boaz.

A Godly man who happens to be a relative of Naomi's, could he rescue them from their bleak situation?

Even if things seem dark, we can trust God is still at work behind the scenes.

Even if things seem dark, we can take refuge in God, he will make a way.

***That's where we find ourselves in Ruth chapter 3.**

Naomi takes the initiative to find Ruth a husband.

Ru 3:1 One day Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, should I not try to find a home for you, where you will be well provided for?”

Ru 3:2 Is not Boaz, with whose servant girls you have been, a kinsman of ours? Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor.

Ru 3:3 Wash and perfume yourself, and put on your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking.

Ru 3:4 When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do.”

So Ruth goes and follows Naomi's orders.

She finds Boaz sleeping and she uncovers his feet and sits and lies down at the foot of his bed.

There was a real danger here that something inappropriate could happen between Ruth and Boaz, or even worse, Boaz could have driven her away in moral embarrassment. Everything hangs on how Boaz will respond when he wakes and finds her there.

Imagine how Ruth's pulse was racing when Boaz woke!

Ru 3:8 In the middle of the night something startled the man, and he turned and discovered a woman lying at his feet.

Ru 3:9 “Who are you?” he asked. “I am your servant Ruth,” she said. “Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer.”

Ruth actually proposes to Boaz!

Boaz replies:

Ru 3:10-11 “The LORD bless you, my daughter,” he replied. “This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier... don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask.”

***To understand Ruth you need to understand the ancient practice of levirate marriage.**

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Levirate marriage is a custom where the relative of a deceased man is obliged to marry his relative's widow and produce a child.

Having children enables the inheritance of land and continues the family line, which offered security and status to the widow.

The relative who Ruth would need to marry would be called a "kinsman redeemer."

A kinsman-redeemer was someone who redeemed what was lost.

This could be the other persons' property, their freedom, or even their name.

In short, the kinsman was a rescuer and restorer.

It was a big commitment, not lightly taken.

And to shirk your responsibility, would cause you public shame, but at the same time, if either the woman or the man did not want to marry, they could get out of it.

Thankfully for us though, Boaz was all in.

He was eager to take Ruth as his wife and be a kinsman redeemer for Naomi and Ruth.

***But now there are suddenly two more problems: the elder kinsman and the empty womb.**

First, Boaz has some difficult news.

Ru 3:12 Although it is true that I am near of kin, there is a kinsman-redeemer nearer than I.

There was a closer relative in the village who had first right and responsibility to marry Ruth as kinsman redeemer.

Let me just point out something here - do you notice how honest Boaz is?

The woman he loves just said yes, but because of his impeccable character, he will still give another man the right and privilege to marry her because the other guy had the first right to do so.

But Boaz wasn't about to just let that happen.

The next day Boaz goes to the city gate, into the courtyard where all the business and legal proceedings happened.

He waits around and when the other kinsman comes by, he lays out the situation for him.

Naomi is giving up what little property she has, and the closer relative has an opportunity and a duty to buy it back on her behalf.

In Verse 4:4, he replies. "I will redeem it."

Wait, what?

We don't want him to redeem it!

We want dreamy Boaz!

So just when you are yelling at the television to Boaz, "No Boaz, don't do it!"...

Boaz pipes up: "*You know, don't you, that Naomi has a daughter-in-law. So when you do the part of the kinsman redeemer, you must also take her as your wife and raise up offspring in the name of her husband Mahlon?*"

Then, to our great relief, in verse 6 the kinsman says he can't do it.

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Perhaps he already has children and supporting Naomi and Ruth would take too much away from his other children.

Either way, Boaz leaves the centre of town and directly goes and rents a hall and a caterer and marries the girl of his dreams.

And here comes the next potential problem: the empty womb.

Ruth was married for 10 years before - no baby.

Would there be a child for Naomi to call her grandson and carry on her family name?

Ru 4:13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.

You know, church nurseries are full of babies that doctors said could never happen!

Naomi gets an heir to pass on the family name, Ruth gets a husband to love and care for her, and dreamy Boaz gets a beautiful wife and family of his own.

The End!

Well, what's the point?

Last week we said that the big themes of Ruth are that God is still at work even in the worst of times, and if we take refuge in God, He will make a way.

When we trust in Jesus as savior and follow Jesus as his disciples, our suffering always contains the seeds of hope, because God is still working.

No matter where you are in your journey right now, the best is yet to come.

***Ruth and Naomi's story reminds us that regardless of our setbacks, God will work out His plan to redeem and rescue us.**

And here is something incredible:

The story of Ruth is a crucial point in God's redemption plan for all of mankind.

Boaz and Ruth's son Obed, was the great grandfather of King David.

And David is the direct ancestor of the messiah, Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ has come to be our kinsman redeemer with God.

The human race was separated from God through sin and rebellion.

No matter how good or courageous Ruth was, her and Naomi still needed a kinsman redeemer to intervene.

No matter how good we are or how hard we try, we cannot remove the curse of sin on our own.

We also need a kinsman redeemer!

Jesus came as a human, our brother, which put him in position so that he could be our kinsman redeemer.

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous" ([Romans 5:19](#)).

When you think about what a kinsman-redeemer is, it is all about what was lost being found and restored.

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You and I were lost, but God the Father stepped in.
He restored what was lost and gave us a new identity and a new destiny in Christ.
Jesus Christ paid the price of redemption once and for all.
Maybe you are here today and you are seeking for redemption, rescue and restoration.
God loves you so powerfully and deeply that he sent Jesus to be your kinsman redeemer.
The thing that you are powerless to do? He has done for you.
Will you trust in the work God has done to rescue you?

It’s a mighty miracle to see that a story that started Boaz finding Ruth ends up with God revealing OUR kinsman redeemer, Jesus Christ, to the whole world. And it was all done because of God’s great love.
That's redemption's romance.
Let's pray.