

## **The Story: Chapter 9 The Kinsman Redeemer Ruth 1-4**

Naomi and Ruth are back in Bethlehem. Ruth is looking for a way to make money. She decides to head out into the fields and “glean” from the grain that the harvesters had left behind.

She goes to work and meets a man named Boaz. Boaz takes great care of her (something that she does not expect) so she comes home and begins to tell Naomi all about it...

### **Ruth 2:19-20**

“The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz,” she said.

<sup>20</sup>“The Lord bless him!” Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. “He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead.” She added, “That man is our close relative; he is one of our kinsman-redeemers.”

### **What is a Kinsman-Redeemer?**

Kinsmen Redeemer was responsible for protecting the interests of needy members of the extended family.

- Hebrew term means “one who delivers or rescues”.

### **Kinsman-Redeemer Responsibilities:**

1. To redeem land that a poor relative had sold outside the family
2. To redeem a relative that had been sold into slavery
3. To avenge the killing of a relative
4. To provide an heir for a brother by marrying his widow

Requirements to be a Kinsman-Redeemer: Dealing mostly with slavery.

#### 1. He must be a Kinsman.

He must be actually related to the person you are trying to redeem.

#### 2. He must be Free himself.

A slave could not redeem another slave. You had to be free to redeem another from slavery.

#### 3. He must be able to Pay the Price

He had to have enough money to pay off the debt.

#### 4. He must be Willing to pay the price.

There were most likely plenty of slaves with rich relatives that simply were not willing to pay the price to set them free.

**Listen very carefully:** The New Testament makes it very clear that Jesus Christ is our ultimate Kinsman-Redeemer.

**John 1:14**

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Hebrews 2:11-18 focuses on this.

**Hebrews 2:11**

So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.

**Hebrews 2:17**

<sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

1. He is truly a Brother.
2. He is the only one who has always been completely free.
3. He is the only pure sacrifice for our sin.
4. He has shown that He is willing to pay the price for our sin.

**So, let's see how God led Ruth to her Kinsman-Redeemer:**

The Book of Ruth opens with Elimelech and Naomi, with their two sons, living in Bethlehem in Judah.

- Because of a famine in the land they decide to go to Moab and live until the famine is over.

**Key Point:** Elimelech was going **BACK** to Moab. This took him back out of the Promised Land to a place they had passed through on their trip to the land.

- The **only reason** there could have been a famine in the Promised Land was that the people of God had been disobedient again.

- And we actually get a picture of someone leaving the Promised Land **going back the way they came.**

**Ruth 1:1-6**

- After they had been there a short time, Elimelech dies.
- Leaving Naomi and her two sons all alone.

Her sons, Mahlon and Kilion marry girls from the Moabite tribe.

- Ten years later they both die.

So, by the time we get to v. 5 we have Naomi and two daughters-in-law living in a foreign land with no husbands and no children.

- Honestly, at this time in history, they were at about the lowest point you could get to as far as society was concerned.

Naomi had gone from a woman with a husband and two sons to the bottom of societies totem pole.

Then... **in v 6**...

Naomi got word that the situation back at home was getting better so she decided they would go back to Bethlehem.

As she started the journey she decided that it would be best for her daughters-in-law to stay in their own land and hope to remarry and have families. She encourages them to go back and stay in Moab, basically freeing them from any responsibility they had toward her because of her sons.

### **Ruth 1:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands?"

<sup>12</sup> Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons—<sup>13</sup> would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, **because the Lord's hand has gone out against me!**"

We see a picture of where Naomi stands. She believes the Lord has turned against her because of the conditions in her life.

- Orpah decides to go back but Ruth commits to stay with Naomi.
- This is where we see our famous wedding ceremony passage:

### **Ruth 1:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. <sup>17</sup> Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.” <sup>18</sup> When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

So, they continued their journey back to Naomi’s homeland. When they got there the whole town was excited to see them and came out saying, “Can this be Naomi”.

And then we see even more of how Naomi feels about the whole situation:

### **Ruth 1:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> “Don’t call me Naomi,” she told them. “Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. <sup>21</sup> I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me.”

When she left she had a husband and two healthy sons. They had plans to come back here the whole time. I’m sure she thought they were going to come back, their boys would get married, they would come back to their original land and have a wonderful life in Bethlehem.

- Now she has one daughter-in-law, no way to work the land, and will probably end up begging these people for food before too long.

**Question:** Have you ever been in her situation?

- You had a plan and all of the sudden it changed to something completely different.
- You felt like you went in full and came out empty on the other side?

**This is their situation:**

- They have no money.
- They have the land that belongs to her husband, Elimelech, but they have no one to work that land.
- They will be forced to sell the land.
- This means two things:

- Because of the way things worked, once the land is gone, with no sons to keep the family name going, it will basically be like her husband never existed.
- And, they would basically live as servants to others as long as they lived.

This is where their plan has gotten them.

### **Then we see how God provided for them in Bethlehem.**

Ruth goes to work in the field of a man names Boaz.

- The plan to take care of the poor people was to let them come through the fields and take whatever was left over after the real harvest had taken place.
- She meets this man named Boaz.
- Come to find out, Boaz is a close relative to Naomi and her husband Elimelech.

Boaz invited Ruth to come back to his field so that he could take care of her. It was interesting because he knew...

### **Ruth will find three important things in his field:**

1. Companionship (among the other women)
2. Protection (because he commanded his men not to touch her)
3. Refreshment (because he offered her water when she was thirsty)

**- 3 things that you and I can still use from Him today!**

### **Ruth 2:12**

**<sup>12</sup> May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.**

### **This is a picture of our salvation:**

- David Guzik shows us the steps Ruth had taken:
  - She put her trust in the God of Israel
  - She left her former associates (her people)
  - She has come in among strangers
  - She was humble
  - And she found protection under the wings of God.

Boaz continued to show her kindness and invited her to eat with them.

And we see this is

### **Ruth 2:14**

**She ate and she was satisfied and had some left over.**

**Look at this:** Ruth went to work one day. She was just looking for any way to help feed herself and her mother-in-law.

- Instead, she is treated with kindness and is **satisfied** with what she received.
- Not thinking about anything else. Just being satisfied right she is.

Leaving her home that morning, she was hoping to just get enough, probably surrendering to the idea that she would never be satisfied again.

**And isn't that just like God.** When we think we're reached the end. We've made as much of a mess as we can and our hope is that God would simply not smack us, with an expectation to never be forgiven or be satisfied again.

And, then He shows us Jesus.

### **How does all of this relate to us today?**

#### **1. Many of us are living in the same situation as Naomi and Ruth.**

- No hope for the future.
- Feeling like God has abandoned us because of mistakes we've made.
- Hoping to just get through life and expecting to never be TRULY SATISFIED again.
- This is just as good as it gets.

#### **2. We also have a Kinsman-Redeemer.**

- His name is Jesus
- He is the only one who can redeem us!
- He is definitely our brother.
- He is FREE from all sin.
- He is the only one pure enough to make the needed sacrifice.
- And He is God's ultimate plan for get His people back!

### 3. We can surrender to Him today.

#### **Ruth 3:7-11**

<sup>7</sup> When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. <sup>8</sup> In the middle of the night something startled the man, and he turned and discovered a woman lying at his feet. <sup>9</sup> “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.” <sup>10</sup> “The Lord bless you, my daughter,” he replied. “This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. <sup>11</sup> And now, my daughter, don’t be afraid. I will do for you all you ask.

Because of her actions, Boaz was willing to redeem her and bring her into his own family.

Now, for us to surrender our lives to Jesus as our Kinsman-Redeemer we can look at her example:

We must put our trust in the God of Israel  
He helps us put our past behind us  
We come into a group that is a bit foreign to us  
We must be humble. This part is tough for us, especially using her example.

And **THEN** she found protection under the wings of God.

Look back at Naomi AND Ruth:

This is a story of going from full to empty on their terms and going from empty to full on God’s terms!!