

Redemption

Ruth 4:1-12

Introduction:

1. The verses in tonight's lesson deal with redemption
 - a. "redeem" is found 8x in these 12 verses
 - b. "redeeming" is found once
 - c. "buy" is found 3x
 - d. "buyest" is found once
 - e. "bought" is found once
 - f. "purchased" is found once
2. In these verses is contained the redeeming work of Boaz
3. He had assured Ruth that he would take care of this work promptly and we see him keeping that promise
4. This redeeming work of Boaz will give us some lessons on the redemptive work of our Savior – The redeemer had to be
 - a. Qualified to redeem
 - b. Able to redeem
 - c. Willing to redeem

I. Sitting at the Gate – vs 1a

- In our last lesson we learned that there was a nearer kinsman than Boaz
 - He had to be informed of the situation and given the opportunity to redeem the land of Elimelech (which Naomi was selling) and marry Ruth
 - If he refused to do the work of a redeemer, then Boaz was able to step in and assume the responsibility
1. Since the redeeming of the property of Elimelech and marrying Ruth were legal matters Boaz went to the city gate
 2. At the gate one could hear the latest news as travelers entered the city
 3. At the gate one would wait for family / friends returning from a trip
 4. There legal matters were taken care of in those days
 5. People would assemble near the gate and transact their business
 6. Officials of the city could be found near the gate
 7. Boaz wanted this matter to be dealt with in the proper way
 - a) *There would be no legal shenanigans in order to obtain Ruth / property*
 - b) *He could have kept quiet and not informed the nearer kinsman, but Boaz has too much character to do that*

II. Summons of the Defendant – vs 1b

1. Boaz arrived at the gate early – right after Ruth left to go home
2. This gave Boaz the opportunity to catch him on his way out to his fields
 - a) *The farmers lived inside the safety of the city walls*
 - b) *But their fields were outside the city wall*
 - c) *They all had to pass through the city gates coming and going*
3. Nearer kinsman knew nothing of the situation so Boaz had to get his attention
4. Note that the nearer kinsman is not named
 - a) *Why didn't Boaz call the man by name – he should have known the name*
 - b) *"Ho, such an one" = "Hey so and so"*
5. The nearer kinsman turned aside and sat with Boaz to discuss this matter

III. Selection of the Witnesses – vs 2

2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, Sit ye down here.
And they sat down.

1. Before Boaz began the discussion, he chose some men to be witnesses
2. Witnesses were needed in business matters to protect both parties
3. If one party later tries to change the contract or renege on the deal the witnesses could be called
4. The law required 2 or 3 witnesses but it allowed for more
5. These witnesses were elders in the city
 - a) *They might have been older and more experienced*
 - b) *They were probably wiser*
 - c) *They were probably in positions of authority in the city*
6. Though Boaz was a rich man, he didn't throw his weight around or try to use his influence in the wrong way
 - a) *Everything was legal and above board*
 - b) *This respect for authority would be honored by the LORD*

IV. Stating of the Case – vs 3-6

A. "Will You Redeem the Land?"

3 And he said unto the kinsman, Naomi, that is come again out of the country of Moab, selleth a parcel of land, which was our brother Elimelech's:
4 And I thought to advertise thee, saying, Buy it before the inhabitants, and before the elders of my people. If thou wilt redeem it, redeem it: but if thou wilt not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know: for there is none to redeem it beside thee; and I am after thee. And he said, I will redeem it.

1. Boaz could have kept quiet about the parcel of land
2. "Advertise" comes from two words – to uncover + ear = to uncover the ear – to push back the head covering of a person so you can speak into his ear
3. This word shows that Boaz was not trying to cover up anything but he wanted everything laid on the table
 - a) *He did not want anything to taint the marriage to Ruth*
 - b) *This would be hard for Boaz because of his interest in Ruth*
 - c) *But integrity made him disclose all*
4. The poverty that came on Elimelech's family was noted earlier
5. Naomi and Ruth are poor when they return to Bethlehem
6. She had the option of selling some of the land belonging to her late husband
7. The redeemer could purchase that land and Ruth and marry her and raise up a son for her dead husband

B. "Yes- I Will Redeem the Land" – vs 4b

"I will redeem it"

1. This was a very quick and rash promise
2. Adding more property to his holdings sounded good to him
3. Some see a measure of greed here

c. “Oh, Yes, You Will Have to Marry Ruth, Too!”

5 Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy *it* also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance.

- The nearer kinsman promised very quickly to redeem the land
- 1. Boaz informed that nearer kinsman that he would have to marry Ruth and raise up a son to keep alive the name of Mahlon
- 2. There were no sons to inherit the rest of the property so the kinsman redeemer would produce a son to be an heir
- 3. Boaz is not being crafty or sly here
 - a) *Some say that he was wrong to mention the land first and get the nearer kinsman to promise to redeem it then mention marrying Ruth*
 - b) *Boaz did nothing wrong here – he was acting in a noble way here*
 - c) *He was making it difficult for the nearer redeemer to turn down the land and Ruth*
- 4. We do not need to scheme and connive to get God’s blessings. We need to act with integrity and God will bless

d. “No, I Can’t Marry Ruth and Redeem the Property!”

6 And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem *it* for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem *it*.

- 1. All of a sudden this ole' boy realizes that this is a bigger package than he bargained for. A wife comes with this deal. He started back-pedaling.
- 2. Here was an adamant refusal with no room for negotiation
- 3. He claimed that marrying Ruth would mar or corrupt his own inheritance
 - a) *He did not want to share his possessions with Ruth.*
 - b) *The land that he redeemed would go to Ruth’s son /he would not have it*
 - c) *He wanted the land but not the lady*
 - d) *He wanted the property but not the person*
 - e) *He wanted the real estate, but not Ruth*
 - f) *The nearer kinsman gave up his right to redeem*
 - g) *That which thrilled Boaz, the nearer kinsman despised*

v. Settling of the Issue – vs 7-8 ←

- 1. Every culture has practices and customs which are used to make a business transaction final
 - a) *Some sign papers and have them notarized*
 - b) *Some shake hands*
- 2. Here there was a custom that involved shoes
 - a) *In some cultures, when property was bought, possession came by walking upon the soil*
 - b) *When a person bought property from another, the seller took off his shoe and handed to the buyer giving up his right to walk across that property*
 - c) *Hear the nearer kinsman gave his shoe to Boaz showing that he was giving up his right to redeem Elimelech’s property and redeem Ruth*

VI. Statement of the Redeemer – vs 9-10

A. The Price

9 And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.

1. Boaz wasted no time once the nearer kinsman rejected the opportunity to redeem Ruth and the land
2. To redeem all that was Elimelech's and Mahlon's and Chilion's would not be cheap
3. Then to marry Ruth would not be cheap
4. And when the child came, raising him would not be cheap
5. When it came to the redemption of our souls, the price was not cheap
 - a) *Ruth could not purchase her own redemption and no one can pay the price for his sins*
 - b) *Jesus paid the price – 1Pet 1:18-19*

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

- c) *Only the blood of Christ is worth enough to purchase the souls of men from sin*

2Co 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

B. The Passion

10 Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day.

1. The driving force for Boaz in this whole matter was his great love for Ruth
 - a) *Note that he did not say here "I have purchased Elimelech's property"*
 - b) *This was a rescue motivated by great love and a tender heart*
2. Our redemption was also motivated by great love
 - a) *Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
 - b) *Ga 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*
 - c) *Eph 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.*

C. The Privilege

1. Normally Moabites could not become members of Israel's congregation
2. But Ruth was an exception and that emphasizes the grace of God
 - a) *God's grace allowed Ruth to enter Israel's congregation*
 - b) *God's grace allowed her to be an ancestress of Christ*
3. Our redemption too is filled with grace
 - a) *Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*
 - b) *Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,*
 - c) *Ro 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.*

D. The Promotion

10a Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife...

1. The status of Ruth greatly changed
 - a) *Both her position and her possessions greatly increased since she was the wife of a wealthy man*
 - b) *She who had been poor, was now rich*
 - c) *She was a gleaner in the fields and became an owner of many fields*
2. This is a picture of the great changes experienced by those who are redeemed by Jesus Christ
 - a) *Our position and possessions greatly changed when we were saved*
 - b) *Once condemned sinners, we became "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood an holy nation" – 1Pet 2:9*
 - c) *Once spiritually poor we are not joint heirs with Christ*
 - d) *We are the bride of the redeemer*

VII. Salutation of the Witnesses – vs 11-12

- Since the nearer kinsman gave up his right to redeem, Boaz quickly took steps to redeem

A. The Proof – vs 11a

11 And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said, *We are witnesses....*

1. By now a crowd had gathered
 - a) *Not just the 10 elders but many more watched*
 - b) *This was big news for the day*
 - c) *All these people were witnesses to the transaction*
2. God's Word abundantly testifies and witnesses to our redemption

B. The Prayer – vs 11b-12

- These witnesses uttered a great prayer for Boaz and Ruth
 - This prayer spoke of four things
1. Favor

11b ...The LORD make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel...

 - a) *This prayer for blessing was specifically for Ruth*
 - b) *They wished divine favor on Ruth just as was on Rachel or Leah*
 - c) *This prayer was answered for Ruth was highly favored by God and He gave her a son in the line of Christ*
 2. Fortune

11c ...and do thou worthily in Ephratah...

 - a) *This is another name for Bethlehem*
 - b) *It comes from the Hebrew word for “wealth”*
 - c) *The witnesses wished prosperity on Boaz and Ruth*
 3. Fame

11d...and be famous in Bethlehem:

 - a) *This has the idea of obtaining a name*
 - b) *Boaz did indeed obtain a good name*
 - c) *His name ended up in God’s Word and his name is famous*
 4. Fruitfulness

12 And let thy house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which the LORD shall give thee of this young woman.

 - a) *This is talking about the offspring of Ruth and Boaz multiplying greatly*
 - b) *This was a prayer for many descendents for Ruth and Boaz*
 - c) *In our day of abortion and population control a large family is not desirable*

Ps 127:3 Lo, children *are* an heritage of the LORD: *and* the fruit of the womb *is* his reward.

Conclusion:

1. See the sovereignty of God here
2. Before there was famine in Bethlehem – now a wedding
3. Before they were in danger – now they are re-established
4. Before there were marriages then deaths – now a marriage then a birth
5. Before there were no children – now Ruth will have a child
6. Before there was no hope in sight – now the future looks bright
7. Before there was emptiness and grief – now there is joy

1 Then went Boaz up to the gate, and sat him down there and, behold, the kinsman of whom Boaz spake came by; unto whom he said, Ho, such a one! turn aside, sit down here. And he turned aside, and sat down.

7 Now this *was the manner* in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave *it* to his neighbour: and this *was* a testimony in Israel. **8** Therefore the kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy *it* for thee. So he drew off his shoe.