

BOOK OF RUTH
APPROACHING THE KINSMAN-REDEEMER
RUTH 3:1-18

Introduction

From what we saw in Chapter 2 we understand that **BOAZ** has his eye on **RUTH** and is falling in love with her. He looking out for her and working things out for her good that she doesn't even realize! **That pictures the LORD'S love and grace at work in our lives to provide for us and to make us want to love Him and serve only Him.**

Now we saw according to **2:23**, **RUTH** continued to glean in **BOAZ'S** field through both the barley and wheat harvests. During these couple of months, it became more and more apparent that **BOAZ** and **RUTH** were fond of each other.

NAOMI had already told **RUTH** that **BOAZ** was a **NEAR KINSMAN** who qualified as a **KINSMEN-REDEEMER**.

Before we go on into the story, let's review exactly how the idea of a **KINSMAN-REDEEMER** works.

When the **TRIBES OF ISRAEL** entered the **PROMISED LAND**, the **LORD** assigned each **FAMILY** of each **TRIBE** a section of the **PROMISED LAND** to inhabit. This **LAND** was very important to the **LORD** and the **ISRAELITES**. So to make sure that it stayed in the family, the **KINSMAN-REDEEMER** law was instituted.

If a man died and left **LAND** and a widow who had bore no sons, his **NEAREST KINSMAN** would be given the opportunity to buy his land and to marry his widow and have sons to carry on the deceased's name. If he wouldn't, then the **NEXT CLOSEST KIN** could redeem and so on.

But now here was the catch. The **KINSMAN-REDEEMER** couldn't make the decision to **REDEEM**. He had to be asked by the widow to **REDEEM** her husbands **LAND**.

With that in mind we see what is going on in our text:

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I. WE SEE NAOMI'S SUGGESTION. (*Ruth 3:1-5*)

A. NAOMI wanted to know what RUTH was waiting for!

1. When she asks "*shall I not seek rest for thee,*" I believe what she is implying to **RUTH** is "*am I going to have to ask him for you?*"
2. And in vs. 2 she says, "*is not Boaz of our kindred?*" **NAOMI** is saying to **RUTH**, "*what's the hold up?*"

B. Remember that it was RUTH who had to claim BOAZ, not the other way around.

C. Now notice that NAOMI tells RUTH that BOAZ is at the threshing floor... That is significant.

1. We might think of the threshing floor as a place of work, and it was. But when the people went to the threshing floor it was a time of feasting and thanking **GOD** for an abundant harvest. They would sing psalms praising **GOD** for the harvest.
2. **NAOMI** would have known that **BOAZ** would most likely be in a good mood at the threshing floor, and so it would be a good time for **RUTH** to go and try to claim **BOAZ** as her **KINSMAN-REDEEMER**.

II. WE SEE THE NIGHT AT THE THRESHING FLOOR. (*Ruth 3:6-13*)

A. Now we need to understand that there is nothing suggestive happening here.

For **RUTH** to uncover **BOAZ'S** feet and lie on them was a request for marriage.

1. Remember that the widow had to request to be **REDEEMED**. So **RUTH** had to propose to **BOAZ**.

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2. This is what **NAOMI** had instructed **RUTH** to do in *vs. 4*.

B. When BOAZ rolled over, he realized that there was a woman on his feet.

Remember in *chapter 2, verse 12* where **BOAZ** said to **RUTH**, *“The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.”*

The same Hebrew word that is translated *“wings”* in *2:12* is translated *“skirt”* in *3:9*.

RUTH is asking **BOAZ** to shelter her under his *wing*; to **REDEEM** her. What a beautiful gesture of love that was!

III. WE SEE THE NEXT MORNING AT HOME. (Ruth 3:14-18)

A. BOAZ didn’t want anyone to know that RUTH had been to the threshing floor. Nothing had happened that was improper, but since when do the facts matter to gossipers?

B. BOAZ gave RUTH six measures of grain to give to NAOMI.

Under the circumstances, it was customary for him to send a gift to **NAOMI**. But this was more than just custom. He wanted to send **NAOMI** a gift, especially after the good advice she had given **RUTH**.

C. And finally we see NAOMI encouraging RUTH to wait patiently for BOAZ to work things out.

She was sure that **BOAZ** wouldn’t rest until the matter was settled.

So, what lessons can we learn from this chapter...

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I. WHEN GOD GIVES US HOPE, HE EXPECTS A REACTION!

A. Verses 1-5 are actually the turning point of the whole BOOK OF RUTH.

NAOMI had hopes that **BOAZ** and **RUTH** would marry, so she prodded **RUTH** to move ahead and claim him.

B. Now that is not to say that we can force the hand of the LORD to do what we would like. The **LORD** is not some genie that grants our wishes!

C. But the LORD causes things to happen in a way so as to reveal to us where HE is at work.

D. Let me put it like this:

If you are learning to surf, you can learn how to choose the right equipment, how to use it properly, how to catch a wave and ride it as long as possible, and how to get off the wave without wiping out.

But you will never see a course that teaches *“How to Build A Wave”*. Surfing is the art of riding the waves that **GOD** has built. If there aren’t any waves, you don’t surf that day.

The problem is that too many church folks have the *“How Can I Build A Wave”* mentality. You can’t build a wave! **GOD** has to build them!

You see, we need to stop trying to **make** things happen on our own, and **start looking for the waves that GOD has created!**

I can tell you from experience that when you stop trying to build a wave and ask **GOD** where **HIS** waves are, you will see amazing things happen in your life!

Dr. Henry Blackaby in his book entitled *“Experiencing God”*

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said, “*Find where God is working and join Him there.*”

Can you see where **GOD** is working? Are you willing to join in where **GOD** is working?

WHEN GOD GIVES US HOPE, HE EXPECTS A REACTION...

II. SOMETIMES, ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT ON GOD!

A. RUTH came home to tell NAOMI about everything that happened.

And **NAOMI** gave some advice that we all hate to hear when we are anxious about something: **WAIT!**

Don't you just hate to **WAIT**?!

One of the most difficult parts of **FAITH** is when no more action can be taken and we must **WAIT PATIENTLY FOR GOD TO WORK OUT HIS WILL!**

B. Sometimes life doesn't go the way we would hope.

Life just doesn't seem fair sometimes, does it?

C. Wouldn't it have been nice if BOAZ had been the very next of kin and RUTH would not have had to wait to see if he would get to REDEEM her?

But it doesn't always work the way we would like for it to.

D. The important thing for us to understand is this: All we can ever do is PLACE OUR LIVES IN GOD'S HANDS AND TRUST HIM!

III. WE MUST CLAIM OUR KINSMAN-REDEEMER!

BOAZ, as a KINSMAN-REDEEMER to RUTH, is a beautiful illustration of how JESUS CHRIST is our REDEEMER. JESUS CHRIST fulfills all of the requirements to be our KINSMAN-REDEEMER:

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A. He Was Related To Us By Blood:

Hebrews 2:14—“*Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*”

Jesus said in *Matthew 26:28*, “*For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*”

B. He Was Able To Pay The Price:

1 Corinthians 6:20—“*For ye are bought with a price. . .*”

1 Peter 1:18-19 says, “*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; 19But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*”

C He Was Willing To Redeem:

Matthew 20:28—“*Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*”

Conclusion

RUTH found the **KINSMAN-REDEEMER** that she needed so desperately for her condition!

Thank **GOD** for our **KINSMAN-REDEEMER** that we needed so desperately for our condition as well!