

Ruth 4:1-12

Ruth's Second Redemption

Ruth's first and most important redemption took place in Ruth 1. But there was another redemption that Ruth was blessed to experience, and how she came to experience that redemption is a beautiful illustration of the eternal redemption the God accomplishes through the gospel of Jesus Christ. The story of Ruth's second redemption is wonderful to tell, but not as nearly wonderful as the story of our eternal redemption from sin.

I. The _____ of Boaz (Ruth 4:1-2)

- Boaz was motivated by his _____ for Ruth. She had nothing to offer him, but because he loved her, he wanted to redeem her.
- We did not initiate the loving relationship with God. God took the initiative, chose to love us, and _____ that love by sending Jesus to for us. (1 John 4:9-10; Romans 5:6-8)

II. The _____ of The Kinsman (Ruth 4:3-5)

- The kinsman had a duty to buy and deliver a person or property out of bondage. _____ was the common purpose. (Leviticus 25, Deuteronomy 25)
- Mankind was in need of deliverance because we were held in the bondage of _____. But Jesus Christ came to pay the price to deliver us from sin and death. (Hebrews 2:14-15)
- To deliver us, Jesus Christ became _____ so that He could die for us, paying the price redeem us from our destitution. (Romans 8:3; Philippians 2:5-8)

III. The _____ of the Kinsman (Ruth 4:6-7)

- His refusal was based solely on material grounds. He didn't want to do the part of a redeemer because it would _____ him more than he wanted to pay.
- Jesus had to give His life and shed his blood to buy our redemption. Redemption is free, but it is not _____. (1 Peter 1:18-19)

IV. The _____ by Boaz (Ruth 4:9-10)

- Our redemption was not an _____ by God. It was not a back up plan created to fix a mistake that caught God by surprise. (Revelation 13:8; Genesis 3:15)
- Just as Boaz fulfilled his role as the kinsman redeemer, Jesus fulfilled His role as our redeemer according to God's _____. (Isaiah 53:6; Luke 2:11; 19:10)

V. The _____ of the Witnesses (Ruth 4:11-12)

- A sad story turned into a _____ because of redemption.
- If you know Christ as your Savior, then you too have witnessed an incredible redemption. God has given us the responsibility to be a _____ of redemption. (Acts 1:8; Psalms 107:2)

Conclusion

The story of Ruth's second redemption is beautiful, not only for how it changed Ruth's life but also for how it illustrates our eternal redemption. The story of our redemption is too good to keep it a secret. We are witnesses to our own redemption and should _____ tell others what Christ has done for us.

Ruth 4:1-12

Ruth's Second Redemption

Ruth's first and most important redemption took place in Ruth 1. Ruth professed her faith in the Lord and made the choice to trust in Him. At that point, she was justified and redeemed from her sin eternally. Eternal redemption is the most important redemption.

But there was another redemption that Ruth was blessed to experience, and how she came to experience that redemption is a beautiful illustration of the eternal redemption the God accomplishes through the gospel of Jesus Christ. In Ruth's case, her kinsman, Boaz, fulfilled the requirements of the Law to rescue Ruth from poverty and misery. His willingness to do for her what she could not do for herself and what others would not do for her points forward to the work that Jesus would accomplish for us with His death, burial and resurrection for our sin. The story of Ruth's second redemption was wonderful to tell, but not as nearly wonderful as the story of our eternal redemption from sin. We are witnesses to our own redemption and should gladly tell others what Christ has done for us.

I. The Rapidness of Boaz

Ruth 4:1-2 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. [2] And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, Sit ye down here. And they sat down.

The day after the harvest celebration and Ruth's proposal of marriage, Boaz did not delay to take the necessary steps in order to make Ruth his wife. What motivated Boaz to move so quickly and take the steps to marry her? Ruth was not wealthy, so she did not have anything material to offer him. She was younger than him and presumably a nice looking woman in his estimation, but it wasn't physical attraction that motivated him. Boaz was motivated by his love for Ruth. She had nothing to offer him, but because he loved her, he wanted to redeem her.

This is a wonderful illustration of what Jesus Christ has done for us. We had nothing to offer Him, but because of His love for us, He came to redeem us. This is a humbling truth to admit. We would like to think that when God saved us He got something special, but the truth is that there was nothing lovely or appealing about us.

This is one of the core facts of the gospel. We did not initiate the loving relationship with God. God took the initiative, chose to love us, and demonstrated that love by sending Jesus to for us.

1 John 4:9-10 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

It was the love of God that caused Him to want to redeem us from our sin. It was not because we had done something great to deserve it, but because He chose to love us.

Romans 5:6-8 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. [7] For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. [8] But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Boaz could have refused to redeem Ruth, but because he loved her, he chose to redeem her.

II. The Responsibility of The Kinsman

Ruth 4:3-5 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. [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.

Having assembled a meeting for the purpose of contracting official business, Boaz informed the kinsman that Naomi was selling a portion of land that belonged to Elimelech. As the near kinsmen, Boaz or the other relative could buy it, with the nearer kinsman having first option. The nearer kinsman, whose name we never learn, initially agrees to purchase the land.

Only then did Boaz inform him of a very important stipulation. If her were to buy the land, thus legally exercising his right as the kinsman redeemer, he also would then legally have to marry Ruth and raise up a son to carry on the name of Ruth's first husband. He could not legally do one without doing the other.

Remember, the kinsman redeemer had three responsibilities. He could buy back the land of a relative that had been mortgaged due to poverty. He could buy back a relative that had sold himself into slavery to a foreigners due to poverty. And he could marry the widow of a relative that had been left without any sons. (Leviticus 25, Deuteronomy 25) In each case, the kinsman had a duty to buy and deliver a person or property out of bondage. Whether it was land that was sold being delivered back to the family, a brother that was a slave being delivered out of slavery or a widow being delivered from her hardship, deliverance was the common purpose. This was the kinsman's responsibility.

We see in this another parallel to the gospel. Mankind was in need of deliverance because we were held in the bondage of sin. But Jesus Christ came to pay the price to deliver us from sin and death.

Hebrews 2:14-15 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; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

To deliver us, Jesus Christ became our "kinsman." He became human so that He could die for us, paying the price redeem us from our destitution.

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Philippians 2:5-8 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

When a person was destitute and could not deliver their self, it was the relatives responsibility to redeem his impoverished kin. Christ took the responsibility to do for us what we could not do for ourselves. He became our kinsman so that we might be saved.

III. The Refusal of the Kinsman (vv.6-7)

Ruth 4:6-7 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. [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.

When the kinsman found out that there was a stipulation attached to the purchase of this land, he changed his mind. He was interested in the land, something that would benefit him, but he was

not at all interest in Ruth, someone who had nothing to offer him. As a sign of this decision and the business transaction that was to take place, he took off his shoe and gave it to Boaz. It is likely that this tradition was rooted in Deuteronomy 25:9.

Deuteronomy 25:9 Then shall his brother's wife come unto him in the presence of the elders, and loose his shoe from off his foot, and spit in his face, and shall answer and say, So shall it be done unto that man that will not build up his brother's house.

He states his reason for refusing as "lest I mar mine own inheritance." By that he could have meant several things. He may already have been married, and to marry another would bring strife into his house. This is the traditional teachings of the Jews. It could be that he had been married before and had children, so to marry Ruth and have more children would mean dividing his estate amongst more children, lessening the amount that each would get. Or it is possible that he would have had to keep up the property plus Ruth and Naomi, which would have been more of an expense that he could have afforded. Whatever the exact reason, his refusal was based solely on material grounds. He didn't want to do the part of a redeemer because it would cost him more than he wanted to pay.

Redemption is not cheap. It was so expensive, in fact, that we could not afford to redeem ourselves. The best that we could offer was not good enough to rescue us from sin. No one else could redeem us either, because they had their own sin debt to pay. We needed someone with enough spiritual capital to cover our debts and rescue us from sin.

That is where Jesus stepped in. As the sinless Son of God, He had no sin debt of His own to pay. Furthermore, His resources are infinite, so there was no danger of diminishing His resources if He redeemed us. But the price was high. Jesus had to give His life and shed his blood to buy our redemption. Redemption is free, but it is not cheap.

1 Peter 1:18-19 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:

Jesus voluntarily fulfilled the role of the kinsman redeemer. Though it was costly, He willingly paid the price.

IV. The Redemption by Boaz

Ruth 4:9-10 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. [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.

After the kinsman refused to do redeem Ruth, Boaz turned to the elders and confirms the deal by asking for their affirmation. He acknowledged that he has purchased the land and that he has taken Ruth to be his wife. He has fulfilled the duty of the kinsman by redeeming the land and the widow.

He also affirms his intention 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." That was what God had intended. Boaz is a wonderful example of a true redeemer. A true redeemer delivers according to God's plan.

Our redemption was not an afterthought by God. It was not a back up plan created to fix a mistake that caught God by surprise. Christ was the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." (Revelation 13:8) The first mention of the plan came in the garden, right after man sinned.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

We find this plan woven throughout the Old Testament, from the promises made to Abraham and David to the prophecies of Isaiah and many others.

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

When Christ was born, the angels declared, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11) As Jesus walked on this earth, He affirmed that He had come to do the will of the Father, and that will was that Jesus would come "to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10)

Even in the Garden of Gethsemane, He prayed, "Father, not my will, but thine be done." Jesus submitted to the Father's plan for our redemption. Just as Boaz fulfilled his role as the kinsman redeemer, Jesus fulfilled His role as our redeemer according to God's plan.

V. The Recognition of the Witnesses

Ruth 4:11-12 And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said, We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephrath, and be famous in Bethlehem: [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.

After the deal was done, the people responded to Boaz' remarks by affirming that they saw the transaction and that it was done right, and by giving their blessing upon the marriage of Boaz and Ruth. They witnessed the redemption and joyfully celebrated it. This was, after all, a momentous occasion. A sad story was now turning into a happy ending because of redemption.

If you know Christ as your Savior, then you too have witnessed an incredible redemption. The sad story that was your life now has a happy ending. You are saved from your sin and will enjoy heaven for eternity. You are a witness of what your redeemer has done. You should be glad and proclaim the wonderful news to others. In fact, God has given us the responsibility to be a witness of redemption.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The word "gospel" means "good news." There is no better news than the news of redemption through Christ Jesus. God calls the redeemed to share the message of redemption with the lost so that they too might be saved. We must not keep the blessing to ourselves. We must share it with others.

Psalms 107:2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

Conclusion

The story of Ruth's second redemption is beautiful, not only for how it changed Ruth's life but also for how it illustrates our eternal redemption. The story of our redemption is too good to keep it a secret. We are witnesses to our own redemption and should gladly tell others what Christ has done for us.