

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Sermon Series: Ruth
Title: Redemption
Speaker: Matt Ewert
Text: Ruth 4
Date: November 26, 2017



REVIEW

In our North American romantic naiveté, we are convinced that 'love is all you really need.' That's not the way the story unfolds for Ruth and Boaz. They have indeed committed themselves to each other, but the story is not finished. Boaz has some mother-in-law issues, and it's complicated in chapter 4.

DISCUSSION

Read Chapter 4 together. Be alert for three issues to deal with before the marriage is completed:

- The kinsman redeemer, Levirate marriage, women holding property

Fleshing out the complicated issues:

- **The kinsman redeemer:** 4:2-4
 - ⇒ Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law, and Boaz's prospective mother-in-law is selling her late husband's (Elimelech) property. However, there is no son to inherit the land, but the land needs to stay within the clan.
 - ⇒ The solution was to have a kinsman redeemer (close relative) to take property of the land. Boaz becomes the proactive one in the process. He was not the first in line, but the nearer one reneges on the deal when he hears that Ruth is part of the deal.
- **Levirate marriage:** Deuteronomy 25:5-6
 - ⇒ If a brother dies and has no son, one of his brothers must marry the dead brother's wife and give him a son. That son has the rights of the dead brother's property, and to keep the family line alive.
 - ⇒ However, none of Naomi's sons are alive. It's a problem.
- **Women inheriting land**
 - ⇒ Ruth, as a daughter-in-law, may actually have some degree of right, based on the Leviticus case law. Numbers 27:1-11
 - ⇒ An amendment is made to the previous decision allowing the women to inherit the land. While they are allowed to retain possession of the land, there is a stipulation that if they want to remarry, they can only marry other Israelite men from the same clan. Numbers 36:6
- The issues are satisfied: Ruth 4:9-12
 - ⇒ Boaz becomes the kinsman redeemer, Ruth's property (if indeed it is hers) is retained within the clan; Boaz and Ruth have a son (Obed) and thus family line is restored. All the complications are clarified.

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Sermon Series: Ruth
Title: Trust and Obey God
Speaker: Steve Berg
Text: Ruth 3
Date: November 19, 2017



DISCUSSION

Quite the story!

Application Possibilities:

- **In the immediate sense:** Consider your relationships – with Jesus Christ, my family, my friends and workplace
 - ⇒ Two characters are contrasted:
 - * The unnamed possible kinsman redeemer who wasn't going to risk his inheritance. His concern is to preserve his way of life.
 - * In contrast, we see Boaz willing to take great risks to bring about a right and just conclusion. What risks is he taking?
 - ⇒ Do I look more like the former character trying to preserve life the way I want and love it?
 - ⇒ Or am I more like Boaz, who actually finds real life by giving it away, dying to self, and living wholly for God?
 - ⇒ Is there anything in my life that challenges me to take a risk for sake of the Kingdom of God? Or is everything I think and do concerned primarily with safety and comfort?
- **In the cosmic sense:** Thinking of God's Grand Narrative and my place in it
 - ⇒ God is in the business of redeeming the world from its broken state in order to restore the world, to return all things back to its original state:
 - * Into what spaces and places might God be calling me to do his redemptive work?
 - * Do I have a clear understanding how I can get involved in that redemptive process? What might God be up to in my life right now?