

Theme: In his willingness to serve as a kinsman-redeemer, Boaz points forward to our true Kinsman-Redeemer, Jesus, who redeems, frees, protects, and defends His people.

## I. Intro - Confusing Cultural Traditions

- A. Bangladesh - men holding hands & airport event!
- B. Ruth 3 is full of confusing cultural traditions!
- C. What is happening? How does it apply today?

## II. An Unusual Plan!

- A. The need: a husband for Ruth (v1)  
One day Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, should I not try to find a home for you, where you will be well provided for? Ruth 3:1
  - 1. Naomi is finally beginning to act decisively
  - 2. She is putting her prayer from Ruth 1:9 into action!
- B. The possible husband: Boaz, the near relative  
Is not Boaz, with whose servant girls you have been, a kinsman of ours? Ruth 3:2
  - 1. There is already a good relationship with Boaz
  - 2. Boaz is obviously a good, righteous man
  - 3. Boaz is also a close relative - more on this in a bit
- C. An unusual plan: sneak into his bed????  
<sup>3</sup> Wash and perfume yourself, and put on your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. <sup>4</sup> When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do.” <sup>5</sup> “I will do whatever you say,” Ruth answered. Ruth 3:3-5

- 1. He will be at threshing floor (v2b)
  - 2. Make yourself attractive - wisdom (v3)
  - 3. Uncover his feet and lie down (v4)
  - 4. He will tell you what to do (v5)
  - 5. What kind of a plan is this? It sounds crazy!
- D. The sexual overtones of the passage
- 1. The setting: a clandestine meeting at night
  - 2. Several keywords with sexual overtones
    - a. “Uncover”  
Cursed be anyone who lies with his father's wife, because he has **uncovered** his father's nakedness.’ Deuteronomy 27:20 (ESV)
    - b. “Lie down”  
Let's get our father to drink wine and then **lie with him** and preserve our family line through our father.” Genesis 19:32
    - c. To “know”  
Now Adam **knew** Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.” Genesis 4:1 ESV
    - d. To “go in” - can mean come/go, but also sexual  
So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then **he went to her**, and the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. Ruth 4:13
    - e. Ruth the Moabite - they had used sex to make Israel be unfaithful to God (see Numbers  
While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, Numbers 25:1
  - 3. Will Boaz and Ruth be faithful? Or will they give in to temptation and be unfaithful as so many were?

### III. A Bold Request and Response

#### A. Ruth fulfills the plan!

So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do. <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. Ruth 3:6-8

1. Ruth follows Naomi's advice and plan
2. Boaz awakes & the moment of truth arrives!

#### B. Ruth's bold request

"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." Ruth 3:9

He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer." Ruth 3:9 ESV

1. Literally "spread your wings over me"
2. A way of saying "Cover me with your cloak to shield and protect me" - marry me!  
Later I passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign LORD, and you became mine. Ezekiel 16:8
3. The same phrase Boaz used in Ruth 2:12  
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." Ruth 2:12

4. Boaz, fulfill your blessing/prayer for me!

5. Let God use you to be a refuge of protection for me!

#### C. Ruth's bold request expanded

"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." Ruth 3:9

1. Marry me as a goel, a kinsman-redeemer
2. A keyword in Ruth: over 20 times as a verb or noun
3. A goel/kinsman-redeemer was a near relative who was to "redeem" and restore widows and those devastated by loss (see Deuteronomy 25:5-10; Leviticus 25:25ff)
4. The goel/kinsman-redeemer restored what was lost
  - a. Freedom for those sold into slavery
  - b. Justice/protection for those being oppressed
  - c. Property restored
  - d. Heirs for the dead man
5. Yahweh was the goel of Israel  
Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. Exodus 6:6
  - a. Yahweh acted as goel to save Israel (Also Isaiah 41:14; 43:14; 44:6; 44:24; 47:4; etc.)
  - b. He redeemed them from slavery, made a covenant of marriage with them, and brought them into their inheritance!

- c. Ruth is saying, “Yahweh spread his garment over me; you do the same! Yahweh has redeemed me; you be my kinsman-redeemer!”

#### D. Boaz’s gracious response

“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. Ruth 3:10-11

1. May the Lord bless you for doing this Ruth!
2. You could have chased after a young man to suit your own desires but you did not
3. Your concern was for Naomi - you continue to act faithfully in her interest!
4. You are showing heed - covenant faithfulness and loyalty in your words and actions!

Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back, each of you, to your mother’s home. May the LORD show **kindness** to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me. Ruth 1:8

“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.” Ruth 2:20

- a. Yahweh is a God of hesed - covenant loyalty, faithfulness, and kindness
  - b. Boaz is saying Ruth is acting with the character of Yahweh throughout this story!
  - c. As God is faithful and displays covenant loyalty and kindness, so Ruth is faithful and displays covenant loyalty and kindness, including in this request!
5. Boaz says he will do all that Ruth requested!

#### E. The testimony of Ruth’s character

And now, my daughter, don’t be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. **All my fellow townsmen know that you are a woman of noble character.** Ruth 3:11

1. What has impressed Boaz and everyone is Ruth’s character! She is the opposite of a seductress!
2. You are an אִשָּׁת נְאֻם - a woman of standing/noble character
  - a. Similar to the description of Boaz - a man of standing/character (Ruth 2:1)
  - b. A woman of noble character the Proverbs 31 woman - more in After Hours

#### F. A potential complication - and a pledge!

Although it is true that I am near of kin, **there is a kinsman-redeemer nearer than I.** <sup>13</sup> Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to redeem, good; let him redeem. **But if he is not willing, as surely as the LORD lives I will do it.** Lie here until morning.” Ruth 3:12-13

1. There is a closer relative than Boaz!
2. Will this other person help? Either way, Ruth and Naomi will be cared for soon!
3. Boaz loads Ruth up with barley as a pledge that Naomi will no longer be empty! (Ruth 3:15-17)
  - a. Naomi had lacked food but is now full
  - b. This is a pledge that she will be restored and filled in every other way as well!
4. The resolution - next week!

## IV. Applying the Word

### A. Jesus is the True Kinsman-Redeemer

1. God was the model for all human redeemers
2. They were just pointers to the true kinsman-redeemer to come, Jesus!
3. Jesus is our kinsman who became human to redeem us, free us, protect us, and restore us!

Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are **of the same family**. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them **brothers**.<sup>12</sup> He says, "I will declare your name to my **brothers**; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."<sup>13</sup> And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and **the children** God has given me."<sup>14</sup> Since the children have flesh and blood, **he too shared in their humanity** so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil —<sup>15</sup> and **free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death**.  
Hebrews 2:11-15

- a. Note the kinsman-redeemer language of family
- b. Our kinsman-redeemer frees us from slavery and fear, protects, and restores us to God!

4. Boaz is just a shadow - Jesus is the real Kinsman-Redeemer!

### B. Have you asked Jesus to be your kinsman-redeemer?

1. Ruth shows her faith by asking Boaz to intervene!
2. She boldly asks for redemption - and we must too!
3. Are you held in slavery by fear, anger, sin, or worry?

### C. Christians - do we boldly act to serve others?

1. God is the Redeemer - but Boaz acts as well!
2. We are called to be God's agents of restoration and blessing to others!
3. Once again, faith leads to bold action throughout this story - by Boaz, by Ruth, and even Naomi!
4. We are called to live with godly character, purpose, and actions, refusing temptation and actively seeking to be a blessing to those around us!

### D. The Table of Our Kinsman-Redeemer

1. We remember that Jesus became human to redeem
2. We give thanks and celebrate the salvation we have in Him!
3. Come and receive from your Kinsman-Redeemer!

## Restoration Through A Kinsman-Redeemer

Ruth 3

September 28, 2025

Communion

Psalm 20:1-5

Teaching keywords: Kinsman-Redeemer; redemption; Christology; hope; biblical characters; character

May the LORD answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you.<sup>2</sup> May he send you help and support, as<sup>3</sup> he remembers your worship this day.<sup>4</sup> May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.<sup>5</sup> May the LORD grant all your requests, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory now and forevermore! (Based on Psalm 20:1-5)

One day Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, should I not try to find a home for you, where you will be well provided for? <sup>2</sup> Is not Boaz, with whose servant girls you have been, a kinsman of ours? Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. <sup>3</sup> Wash and perfume yourself, and put on your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don’t let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. <sup>4</sup> When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do.” <sup>5</sup> “I will do whatever you say,” Ruth answered.

<sup>6</sup> So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do. <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. All my fellow townsmen know that you are a woman of noble character. <sup>12</sup> Although it is true that I am near of kin, there is a kinsman-redeemer nearer than I. <sup>13</sup> Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to redeem, good; let him redeem. But if he is not willing, as surely as the LORD lives I will do it. Lie here until morning.”

<sup>14</sup> So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, “Don’t let it be known that a woman came to the threshing floor.” <sup>15</sup> He also said, “Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out.” When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and put it on her. Then he went back to town.

<sup>16</sup> When Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, “How did it go, my daughter?” Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her <sup>17</sup> and added, “He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, ‘Don’t go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’” <sup>18</sup> Then Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.” Ruth 3:1-18