

Theme: The book of Ruth concludes with a beautiful picture of redemption through love, as Boaz and Ruth are united in marriage, Naomi's emptiness is filled with an heir, and God's greater plan unfolds through the lineage that leads to David—and ultimately to Jesus.

I. Surprise Ending That Changes the Story

- A. Sixth Sense; Planet of the Apes; Shutter Island
- B. These movies all have endings that re-contextualize the whole story
- C. We see the same thing twice in Ruth 4 - Boaz's shrewd plan and then the concluding verses of the book
- D. The conclusion of this fantastic true story!

II. A Critical Meeting

A. Boaz goes to the city gate

Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat there. When the kinsman-redeemer he had mentioned came along, Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down. ² Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so. Ruth 4:1-2

- 1. Boaz goes to the city gate to complete the actions
 - a. The city gate is THE busy place in town (the Docks)
 - b. It is where business was done, the poor received help, and important discussions were conducted
 - c. This is why the elders are there
- 2. Boaz gets the unnamed kinsman-redeemer to sit and gathers 10 elders of the town
 - a. The other kinsman-redeemer is never named
 - b. This may be to protect his reputation

- c. But it may also be to highlight the difference between him and Boaz, and who is memorialized

B. Boaz's shrewd plan

- 1. Boaz speaks in very friendly terms to the man
Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat there. When the kinsman-redeemer he had mentioned came along, Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down. Ruth 4:1
 - a. Boaz uses friendly language and gestures
 - b. He is displaying godly wisdom in how he approaches the man
- 2. Boaz speaks of redeeming some property
Then he said to the kinsman-redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our brother Elimelech. ⁴ I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line." "I will redeem it," he said. Ruth 4:3-4
 - a. Boaz only mentions the property, which the kinsman-redeemer could redeem from Naomi/Elimelech
 - b. The man would have to spend money, but since Naomi is too old to have any further children, there would be no future heirs, so the property would go to this man's heirs.
 - c. Thus, there is cost, but also potential future profit and benefit to the kinsman-redeemer!
 - d. The man sees this as a good deal and offers to redeem the land!

3. Boaz finally reveals the real issue - Ruth and a future son to inherit the land! (the surprise twist!)

Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi and from Ruth the Moabitess, you acquire the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property." ⁶ At this, the kinsman-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it." Ruth 4:5-6

- a. Boaz now lets out the surprise - Ruth!
- b. Naomi is too old to have a child who could maintain the line of Elimelech, but Ruth is not!
- c. This changes everything in the other mans calculations! Instead of being potentially lucrative, this will cost!
- d. He would have to pay for the land and then give it back when a son came along!
- e. He quickly backs out - which is what Boaz hoped all along!
- f. This was a very smart way for Boaz to do all of this. It was totally truthful and upright, but definitely done in a way that maximized the chance for him to get what he wanted - Ruth!

4. Boaz completes the deal as the kinsman-redeemer

Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion and Mahlon. ¹⁰ I have also acquired Ruth the Moabitess, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from the town records. Today you are witnesses!" Ruth 4:9-10

- a. vv8-9 describe a strange custom of using a sandal to complete the deal, which had to be explained even to the original readers!
- b. Boaz agrees to be the kinsman-redeemer
- c. He is redeeming the property and agreeing to raise up an heir for Elimelech (and Naomi!)
- d. But once again, Boaz goes beyond the law - he is taking Ruth as his wife!
- e. Grace and chesed (covenant faithfulness) always go beyond the minimum requirements of the law!
- f. This was a very smart way for Boaz to do all of this. It was totally truthful and upright, but definitely done in a way that maximized the chance for him to get what he wanted - Ruth!

5. The witnesses respond with a joyful blessing

Then the elders and all those at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. ¹² Through the offspring the LORD gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah." Ruth 4:11-12

- a. The elders & people serve as witnesses to the deal
- b. They respond with a joyful blessing on Boaz and Ruth and their descendants
- c. It is wonderful to see all of the prayers and blessings in this little book!
- d. In After Hours, I will talk about why it is important for us to build this practice in our own lives!

III. The Conclusion: Redeemed By Love

A. Boaz and Ruth are married

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

1. Boaz & Ruth get married (what everyone wanted!)
2. Ruth's loss is replaced as God brings her and Boaz together, and she is granted family and provision - and renown through the ages!
3. Boaz (who was either an older bachelor or a widower) is given a wife, a family, and renown through the ages!
4. God enables them to have a son! Both of them have been redeemed through the love of God and given more than they had thought was possible!

B. Naomi's emptiness is filled with an heir

The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel!
¹⁵He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth."
¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him. ¹⁷ The women living there said, "Naomi has a son." Ruth 4:14-17

1. Naomi is redeemed as well! Yahweh has given her an heir to renew her life and sustain her!
2. Naomi lost two sons, but Ruth loves her and is better than 7 sons - what a testimony!
3. The child (lad - same as the word for Mahlon and Killion) is in Naomi's lap - he is counted as her heir!

4. Far from being empty, Naomi is full of God's blessing!

C. God's greater plan for worldwide redemption!

The women living there said, "Naomi has a son." And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, **the father of David**. Ruth 4:17

1. God's purposes were far greater than just restoring this small family!
2. Only now does the great twist come - this is about the family of David!
3. This all happened during the chaos of the period of the judges, but God was at work not only to redeem this family, but to provide Israel's greatest king to shepherd His people!
4. As the New Covenant people of God, we know the ultimate purpose and plan was not just of Boaz as kinsman-redeemer for temporary safety and provision for Ruth and Naomi, but for Jesus as the Kinsman-Redeemer who offers eternal salvation for everyone!
5. As the New Covenant people of God, we know the ultimate purpose and plan was not just David as King for Israel, but Jesus as the King of the Universe, Who will establish righteousness and Shepherd God's people for all eternity!
6. This amazing story has moved from famine and death to harvest and life, from a family line shrinking and in danger of extinction to a growing family, from the chaos of the judges to the arrival of King David, from bitterness and sorrow to the arrival of the line that leads to the true Kinsman-Redeemer and King, Jesus! This is the way of our God!

IV. Applying the Word

A. Trusting God in the seasons of life

1. Ruth reminds us that life has many seasons!
2. It also shows us how God is always at work - even when we can not see how!
3. The only way to walk through the valleys without being permanently bitter or shattered is to walk with God through them!
4. There is so much confusion, fear, hatred, anger, and bitterness in our world right now! We need Jesus!
5. If you have never looked to Jesus with active faith, do so today!
6. If you are a believer, actively seek God in each season of life!
7. Even when everything seems confused, out of sorts, and full of emptiness or death, know that God is at work and will redeem everything - bringing fullness from the emptiness, and life from death!
And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28
8. Life can be hard, but God is always at work!
9. Just as God brought redemption for Boaz, Ruth, and Naomi, so He will bring redemption into our lives, even if we can not see how at the moment!
10. Your Father loves you, and will never leave or forsake you, and even through your valleys will work all things for His glory and our good as we trust and walk with Him!

B. The Table of Redeeming Love

1. This Table reminds us of redeeming love!
2. When we were enemies of God, Christ died to save us - what redeeming love!
3. In the most evil, horrible event in human history, God was actively working to bring redemption, restoration, and blessing!
4. Come and receive redeeming love!

Redeemed By Love

Ruth 4
October 5, 2025
Communion
Numbers 6:24-26

Teaching keywords: Redemption; kinsman-redeemer; biblical characters

The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26

Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat there. When the kinsman-redeemer he had mentioned came along, Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down. ² Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so.

³ Then he said to the kinsman-redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our brother Elimelech. ⁴ I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line." "I will redeem it," he said.

⁵ Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi and from Ruth the Moabitess, you acquire the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property." ⁶ At this, the kinsman-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it." ⁷ (Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.) ⁸ So the kinsman-redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it yourself." And he removed his sandal.

⁹ Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion and Mahlon. ¹⁰ I have also acquired Ruth the Moabitess,

Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from the town records. Today you are witnesses!"

¹¹ Then the elders and all those at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. ¹² Through the offspring the LORD gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah." ¹³ 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.

¹⁴ The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel!

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¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him. ¹⁷ The women living there said, "Naomi has a son." And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

¹⁸ This, then, is the family line of Perez: Perez was the father of Hezron, ¹⁹ Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, ²⁰ Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, ²¹ Salmon the father of Boaz, Boaz the father of Obed, ²² Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David.

Ruth 4:1-22