



## Ruth 4

1. Read Ruth 4:1-10     *The Blessing of God requires a costly redemption*
  - a. In the ancient world, the *gate* of a village is typically an open plaza just inside the city wall. It is the place where legal transactions are formalized and legal decisions are handed down by the village elders. Boaz went to the village gate to publicly address the need for a Kinsman-Redeemer for Elimelech's family inheritance. Who "just happened" to come by as Boaz sat down?

- b. This closer relative had the right to redeem (buy back) the land that Elimelech had lost when he had moved to Moab. This would also require taking on responsibility for Ruth the Moabite and for perpetuating Elimelech's line. What motivated the closer relative to decline the opportunity to be the redeemer?

- c. How does this section add to your understanding of how costly it will be for Boaz to become Ruth's Kinsman-Redeemer?



- d. What motivated Boaz to pay the price to redeem Elimelech's family?
  - e. What motivated Jesus to pay the price for our redemption? (Romans 5:8) What price did Jesus have to pay? (1 Peter 1:18-19)

2. Read Ruth 4:11-12 *The Blessing of God includes a new family*
  - a. How did the elders and the people at the gate respond to this commitment by Boaz to redeem the land and marry Ruth?
  - b. How does this act of redemption change Ruth's status in Israel?
  - c. *For Personal Reflection:* When we turn to Jesus for our redemption we become a part of a new family—the family of God. (See Ephesians 1:4-5) How have you experienced a “family connection” with believers from different backgrounds?
  
3. Read Ruth 4:13-22 *The Blessing of God gives a vision of hope*
  - a. How has Naomi's former emptiness been transformed to fullness? List several aspects of her life that are now full and flourishing, whereas before she had only emptiness.
  - b. What rich blessing has God given to Israel in the birth of this child?
  - c. *For Personal Application:* We may be tempted to be discouraged as we observe both the wickedness we see in our world, and the widespread rejection of God in our country. How does the book of Ruth offer encouragement and hope to us?
  - d. The great King David was a descendant of Boaz and Ruth. Although David was Israel's greatest king, there are promises made throughout the Old Testament that there will be a greater King to come.  
  
Read Luke 1:30-33. What do you learn about this promised future King?

#### 4. *Taking a second look: God is at work in ways we can't imagine*

- a. How was Ruth's decision to cling to Naomi a stunning demonstration of mercy and lovingkindness? How did it serve God's purposes?
  
- b. How was Boaz's decision to redeem Elimelech's family a stunning demonstration of mercy and lovingkindness? How did it serve God's purposes?
  
- c. How is Jesus' decision to redeem sinful mankind a stunning demonstration of God's mercy and lovingkindness? How did Jesus' sacrifice serve God's purposes?
  
- d. ***For personal reflection:*** Just as Ruth and Boaz were being used by God in ways they could not imagine; even so, we also may be used by God for God's good purposes. Is there a situation in your life where you may relinquish what is "best" for you and instead choose to be a source of mercy and lovingkindness to someone in need?

My Prayer:

*Father, thank you for sending Jesus  
to die so that I may live.  
Take my life and use it as an instrument  
for Your good purposes.*