

## Ruth 4

### *Redemption Realized*

#### Section One: Here comes Boaz

##### Ruth 4:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the guardian-redeemer he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, “Come over here, my friend, and sit down.” So he went over and sat down.

<sup>2</sup> Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, “Sit here,” and they did so. <sup>3</sup> Then he said to the guardian-redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelek. <sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> Then Boaz said, “On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man’s widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property.”

<sup>6</sup> At this, the guardian-redeemer said, “Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it.”

<sup>7</sup> (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.)

<sup>8</sup> So the guardian-redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it yourself.” And he removed his sandal.

<sup>9</sup> Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, “Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon. <sup>10</sup> I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, 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 his hometown. Today you are witnesses!”

<sup>11</sup> Then the elders and all the people 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 family of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. <sup>12</sup> Through the offspring the Lord gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah.”



Is it Boaz’ responsibility to redeem Naomi and Ruth? Why or why not?



What do Boaz’ actions demonstrate about his character?

*Matthew Henry sheds light on this passage within Ruth, and the book as a whole, in very approachable ways. Here is what he says on Boaz as an example: "...to be not only just and honest, but fair and honourable."*

*"What is a great estate good for, but that it enables a man to do so much the more good in his generation, and especially to those of his own household, if he have but a heart to use it so!"*

## Section Two: Boaz marries Ruth

### Ruth 4:13-17

<sup>13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. <sup>14</sup> The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! <sup>15</sup> He 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."

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

? Have you ever been the focus of a celebration or event? What was that experience like? Why was it important to you? (i.e. graduation party, wedding, having a child)

? Is it strange to hear that Naomi was said to have received a son? Why is this an important aspect of the scene of celebration?

## Section Three: Family Line

### Ruth 4:18-22

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

? Why is tying this story to King David significant? Who was King David to ancient Israelites?

? How can we maintain hope and trust in God's ultimate plans in the midst of personal hardship? How do you think Boaz, Ruth, Naomi, and others of their time did so?

*The book of Ruth has a symmetric plot of: **Tragedy > Loyalty > Loyalty > Reverse Tragedy***

*The opening act starts with **Tragedy** (abandoning the promised land, the loss of husbands and sons due to foolishness and sinful choices) but ends with **Loyalty in suffering** as Ruth returns with Naomi to Bethlehem. The closing act features the **Generous Loyalty** of Boaz toward Naomi and Ruth and concludes with the **Reverse Tragedy**: the gaining of a place in the promised land, a husband and a son.*

? How do we see gospel themes demonstrated in the whole book of Ruth? How does this vignette reflect the Great Story God has written, and continues to write, around us?

#### **For Discussion And Accountability**

? Can you think of a difficult time in your life in which God's faithfulness was revealed to you?

? Where are you struggling to trust God's redemption of a hard situation now?