

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

[Rth 3:1-18 NKJV] 1 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you? 2 "Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, [is he] not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. 3 "Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your [best] garment and go down to the threshing floor; [but] do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. 4 "Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do." 5 And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do." 6 So she went down to the

threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her. 7 And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down. 8 Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet. 9 And he said, "Who [are] you?" So she answered, "I [am] Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative." 10 Then he said, "Blessed [are] you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich. 11 "And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you [are] a virtuous woman. 12 "Now it is true that I [am] a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. 13 "Stay this night,

and in the morning it shall be [that] if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you--good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, [as] the LORD lives! Lie down until morning." 14 So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, "Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." 15 Also he said, "Bring the shawl that [is] on you and hold it." And when she held it, he measured six [ephahs] of barley, and laid [it] on her. Then she went into the city. 16 When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "[Is] that you, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her. 17 And she said, "These six [ephahs] of barley he gave me; for he said to me, 'Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.' " 18 Then she said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn

out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."

Over the last few weeks as we have been in this beautiful book of Ruth, you have heard me mention the phrase "kinsmen redeemer" – and I told you guys last week that I was going to explain it as we study chapter three and four.

So with that being said let's turn to Leviticus 25,

When we studied through Chapter one, we looked at the provisions that God had made for widows. We read in the Book of Deuteronomy where the word of God says that if a woman lost her husband, it was the responsibility of the brothers to marry their sister-in-law.

However, any children that would be produced from this new union would still bear the name of the deceased brother.

And I brought up the example of Tamar and the sons of Judah from the book of Genesis.

And then last week, we looked at the provisions that God made for those that were needy – we looked at the welfare or workfare system that He set up where the people were entitled to glean the fields in order to be able to feed themselves – and that is what we saw Ruth do throughout chapter two. That is where Ruth and Boaz finally meet.

So in order to further understand the kinsmen redeemer, we are going to look at another provision that God provided for His people.

[Lev 25:8-17, 23-28 NKJV] 8 'And you shall count seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; and the time of the seven sabbaths of years shall be to you forty-nine years. 9 'Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee

to sound on the tenth [day] of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land. 10 'And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout [all] the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family. 11 'That fiftieth year shall be a Jubilee to you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of its own accord, nor gather [the grapes] of your untended vine. 12 'For it [is] the Jubilee; it shall be holy to you; you shall eat its produce from the field. 13 'In this Year of Jubilee, each of you shall return to his possession. 14 'And if you sell anything to your neighbor or buy from your neighbor's hand, you shall not oppress one another. 15 'According to the number of years after the Jubilee you shall buy from your neighbor, and according to the number of years of crops he shall sell to you. 16 'According to

the multitude of years you shall increase its price, and according to the fewer number of years you shall diminish its price; for he sells to you [according] to the number [of the years] of the crops. 17 'Therefore you shall not oppress one another, but you shall fear your God; for I [am] the LORD your God. ... 23 'The land shall not be sold permanently, for the land [is] Mine; for you [are] strangers and sojourners with Me. 24 'And in all the land of your possession you shall grant redemption of the land. 25 'If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold [some] of his possession, and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold. 26 'Or if the man has no one to redeem it, but he himself becomes able to redeem it, 27 'then let him count the years since its sale, and restore the remainder to the man to whom he sold it, that he may return to his possession. 28 'But if he is not able to have [it] restored to himself, then

what was sold shall remain in the hand of him who bought it until the Year of Jubilee; and in the Jubilee it shall be released, and he shall return to his possession.

God wanted to make sure that the Israelites were always going to be taking care of their own.

God did not allow them to charge interest against each other.

And the provision that we read about here in the book of Leviticus is known as the year of Jubilee.

So in the Jewish calendar, every 50th year was the year of Jubilee and every debt that one may have had against his neighbor – it had to be fully forgiven.

If I sold my field to my neighbor because I needed the money, the field had to be returned to me during the year of Jubilee.

So all contracts were prorated – the farther from the year of Jubilee you were, the more money you would get in return for your field. If

the year of Jubilee is the following year, then you are merely renting the field for one year so the price isn't going to be very high.

So where does the kinsmen redeemer come in???

The kinsmen redeemer would buy out the contract so that the individuals did not have to wait until the Year of Jubilee to get their property back.

However, there were certain restrictions on who qualified to be your kinsmen redeemer – and we will look at those later in our study.

So now, let's take a closer look at our text...

[Rth 3:1 NKJV] 1 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?"

In the opening chapter of the book of Ruth, as the sons of Naomi pass away, Naomi sends away Ruth and Orpah because she didn't

have anymore sons to give to them to marry. She wants them to go back to Moab so that they would be able to find a husband there.

However, all of that changed during the last chapter as Naomi found out that Boaz, who was a blood relative of her late husband, had shown an interest in Ruth by showing her grace.

Now, Naomi wants to be the matchmaker and guide Ruth into the arms of Boaz.

[Rth 3:2-3 NKJV] 2 "Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, [is he] not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. 3 "Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your [best] garment and go down to the threshing floor; [but] do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.

Now, in order to take advantage of the night breezes, the men would harvest during the daytime and winnow the harvest at night.

That is, they would throw the grain in the air, and the chaff –or the waste-would blow away and the barley would fall on the ground where it would be gathered.

And after a long day of harvesting and winnowing, the men would sleep at the threshing floor in order to protect their harvest.

So Naomi, is telling Ruth where to find Boaz in order so that she can take the initiative and make her move.

But before she made her move, she had to make herself look presentable to Boaz.

She had to wash herself up, anoint herself and put on some nice clothes.

[Rth 3:4-6 NKJV] 4 "Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in,

uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do." 5 And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do." 6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her.

Ruth's behavior seems strange to us, almost forward, but she was in fact acting according to the customs of her time.

You see, Boaz had indicated his intentions, and now it was up to Ruth to indicate her interest.

Ruth's coming to Boaz at night was extremely modest.

After all, it was a public place, with entire families camped there in the open. It was a perfect and discrete opportunity for her to claim him as her kinsman-redeemer.

And we will notice that Ruth obeyed the command of her mother-in-law.

[Rth 3:7 NKJV] 7 And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.

What a distinction we have here between Ruth and Eve.

Remember in the Garden of Eden, after the fall – Genesis 3

God accuses Eve of seeking to be at Adam's head. So she fell.

He tells Eve, Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.

Here, Ruth seeks to be at the feet of Boaz and because of it, she is about to get redeemed.

[Rth 3:8-9 NKJV] 8 Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet. 9 And he said, "Who [are] you?" So she

answered, "I [am] Ruth, your maidservant. **Take your maidservant under your wing**, for you are a close relative."

So Boaz wakes up in the middle of the night and there he finds Ruth curled up next to his feet.

Now, during this time, spreading your garment over a woman or a woman placing herself under the outer garment – was an acceptable way to propose marriage or to accept a marriage proposal.

Turn with me to Ezekiel 16,

[Eze 16:6-8 NKJV] 6 "And when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' Yes, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' 7 "I made you thrive like a plant in the field; and you grew, matured, and became very beautiful. [Your] breasts were formed, your hair grew, but you [were] naked and bare. 8 "When I passed by you

again and looked upon you, indeed your time [was] the time of love; **so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness.** Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord GOD.

Here in Ezekiel, we see God's relationship with Israel as He spreads His wing over Jerusalem and in doing so enters a covenant with Israel.

That is what Ruth is asking Boaz – to enter a covenant with her.

He wants Boaz to be her kinsmen-redeemer.

[Rth 3:10-11 NKJV] 10 Then he said, "Blessed [are] you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich. 11 "And now, my daughter, do not

fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you [are] a virtuous woman.

Last week during our study, I pointed out that as Ruth was telling Naomi all that had happened that day in the field as she gleaned and found favor in the eyes of Boaz, Ruth makes a statement that Boaz told her that she could hang out with all the young men in field – even though Boaz told her that she should hang out with all the young women. And we saw Naomi correct her.

Boaz response to Ruth is that he is the one that has been blessed by her presence and by the decisions she has made.

Remember, it was Ruth that sought to go glean out in the fields.

It was Ruth that had the strong work ethic that was noticed by the other servants.

It was Ruth that following the advice of Naomi chose to lay at the feet of Boaz and have him cover her instead of one of the young men in his field.

Boaz wants her to know that he doesn't see her redemption as an obligation but as something that he knows would bring great happiness to him.

Church, Boaz had everything. He had wealth, he was prosperous and he had power. However, he lacked someone to pour upon his love.

In the same way, the greater Boaz, Jesus Christ our Kinsmen-Redeemer, is the Creator of all things – He has it all, But what He desires is a bride – and church, that is what we are.

Anyone willing to fall before His nail-pierced feet and say to Him “cover me” – the scriptures tell us that He will by no means cast out. (John 6:37).

Despite being a lowly gentile and a stranger, Boaz saw Ruth as a virtuous woman – a bride worth winning and that is the same way that Jesus sees the church.

[Rth 3:12-13 NKJV] 12 "Now it is true that I [am] a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. 13 "Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be [that] if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you--good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, [as] the LORD lives! Lie down until morning."

There are two kinsmen-redeemers in the book of Ruth.

And Boaz makes it clear to Ruth that this other kinsmen has first responsibility to marry her and raise up an heir with her – we will see this second redeemer next week in chapter four.

However, if this closer kinsmen is not able to do it, Boaz has promised to redeem her himself.

[Rth 3:14-15 NKJV] 14 So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, "Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." 15 Also he said, "Bring the shawl that [is] on you and hold it." And when she held it, he measured six [ephahs] of barley, and laid [it] on her. Then she went into the city.

Boaz doesn't want word to get out that Ruth came to visit him at night because he wants to tell the other kinsmen personally. He doesn't want him to find out that Ruth was courting him as a redeemer.

In verse 15, Boaz doesn't send Ruth away empty handed.

Apparently, he didn't have any chocolates to give to her so he sends her back carrying 30 gallons of grain.

[Rth 3:16-18 NKJV] 16 When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "[Is] that you, my daughter?" Then she told her all

that the man had done for her. 17 And she said, "These six [ephahs] of barley he gave me; for he said to me, 'Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.' " 18 Then she said, "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."

Upon returning home, Ruth tells Naomi everything that had happened that night and Naomi reassures Ruth that Boaz was not going to stop until Ruth had been redeemed.

Now, I mentioned earlier that there were a few requirements in order to qualify as a redeemer.

- He must be a near kinsmen – we saw Boaz as a near kinsmen and this is the reason that Jesus Christ had to come to the world as a man,

- He must be free of any legal entanglements – Jesus was perfect, without sin. So He wasn't condemned by the Law therefore free of any legal entanglements
- He must have the price of redemption – you cannot redeem someone if you can't pay for their redemption. And Jesus paid that price with His life.

[Lev 17:11 NKJV] 11 'For the life of the flesh [is] in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it [is] the blood [that] makes atonement for the soul.'

- He must possess the ability to redeem you. Jesus possesses the ability to redeem you. Redemption involves purchasing back what was originally sold or lost. What you originally lost in the Garden of Eden when Adam sinned was eternal life in the presence of God. Only Jesus can restore you to eternal life in the presence of God. In His resurrection from the dead He is

called the "firstfruits of them that sleep." Because He rose, you will one day rise and enjoy eternity - you will be restored to the estate that was lost by Adam, but regained by the Risen Lord!

Amen...

Let's pray...

