

Ruth 4

Ruth 4.1-6

V1 – Why did Boaz go to the city gate? That is where the affairs of the city were conducted

- The walls of ancient cities were thick, so the gate was really a tunnel
- it was cool there, so the elders of the city conducted their business there
- Gen. 19.1* – Lot met the two angels at the gate of Sodom
- Whom did Boaz meet at the gate?** The relative closest to Elimelech

V2 – How many elders did Boaz get? 10

- Why?** Probably a quorum of some kind
- There were elders in the Old Testament under the Law of Moses
- They all sat down – the kinsman probably wondered what was going on ("What have I done now?")

V3 – First proposition of Boaz? "Naomi has land to sell – Do you want to buy it?"

- In other words, the next-of-kin had "dibs" on it

Read Lev. 25.23-28ff

- Boaz was doing everything strictly by the Law of Moses
- Why did Boaz offer the land first?** Shrewd – maybe the kinsman would decline the land, and then there would be no problem for Boaz to get Ruth as his wife – very shrewd and wise

V4 – What was the first decision of the kinsman? He would buy the land from Naomi

V5 – "Oh, by the way, if you buy the land, there is a slight catch...."

- What came with the land?** Ruth
- What went with marrying Ruth?** The inheritance stayed with the children born to Ruth in Elimelech's name (not in the kinsman's name)
- So the children of Ruth and this kinsman would be considered the children of Ruth and Elimelech (a lot of work and effort on the part of the kinsman – for someone else's children)
- Imagine today having to put someone else's children through college!

V6 – The decision of the kinsman? Not to redeem Ruth

- Why?** It would jeopardize his inheritance (selfishness)
- Why is the kinsman's name not given in the Bible?** Because of his selfishness
- Just as with Orpah, he is never heard from again

Ruth 4.7-12

V7 – Explain "in former times" It was written by someone later (during the lifetime of David)

- The custom for legal transactions?** They exchanged sandals (seems to be based on this passage: **Read Deut. 25.7-10**)

V8 – The kinsman turned over all rights to Boaz

V 9 – Legal agreement in v 9? Boaz was getting all that belonged to Naomi

V 10 – Next agreement? Boaz also got Ruth

V 11 – What was the wish of the witnesses? That Ruth would be like Rachel and Leah

-Why be like Rachel and Leah? Rachel: 2 sons, and Leah: 6 sons

-The greatest blessing to Old Testament Jews was a large family with many children

Read Psalm 127.3-5

V 12 – The rest of the blessing? To be like Tamar and to be famous in Bethlehem (the city the Messiah would come from)

-Who was Tamar? She bore Judah twin sons – Perez was in the genealogy of Jesus Christ

-Tamar is mentioned in *Matt. 1.3*

See J. Vernon McGee, *Ruth: The Romance of Redemption*, p. 112-13

-What is the first mention of Bethlehem in the Bible? *Gen. 35.19* and *Gen. 48.7* – it is where Rachel died (very dear to Jacob's heart)

See J. Vernon McGee, *Ruth: The Romance of Redemption*, p. 21-22

Ruth 4.13-15

V 13 – They got married

-Who got the credit for the child? God (through his providence) – remember Eve (*Gen. 4.1*)

-Gender of first child? A son

V 14 – The reason for all the emphasis on Ruth's redeemer – Read Deut. 23.3

-How could Ruth enter the Jewish faith? She was "redeemed" by a "savior" (just as Rahab the harlot was)

-Were 10 generations of Ruth punished because she was from Moab? No – because her descendant David became king over all Israel only 4 generations later!

-The Bible is such an incredible book –

-The book of Ruth seems to be a simple love story, but it goes far beyond that to the subject of redemption of the human race from its sin

-Just as we are able to enter the Lord's church today – we are not worthy to enter the kingdom of God, but a redeemer has made arrangements for us to enter

V 15 – What blessings came to Naomi?

-Help in old age

-Daughter-in-law who loved her

-A grandson

-What is the greatest blessing that comes with a being a grandparent? You can send the grandchildren home after 3 hours!

Ruth 4.16-17

V 16 – Naomi now has a reason to be cheerful (all grandparents here can identify with her)

V 17 – **Name of the child?** Obed

Ruth 4.18-22

- Lineage down to King David
- Ruth and Boaz (great-grandparents of David)
- Obed
- Jesse
- David the King

Lessons from this book:

1. Law-abiding people can still survive in a violent age (as we are in today)
2. The providence of God will work things out for his people – **Read Romans 8.28**
3. Our job is to remain faithful – God will work out the details
4. We remember the instructions of Paul to young widows: *1 Timothy 5.14*

Beacon Bible Commentary, II, 201:

The story seems to end like a fairy tale in which the heroine lived happily ever after. But the story of a good and godly life is never a fairy tale. No man or woman who serves God gets everything that he wants. The life of the godly has some disappointments but it is still infinitely richer and more satisfying than life without God. Every man or woman who identifies himself with God and with God's people lives to rejoice in that decision. Everyone who, like Orpah, turns back finally comes to regret that decision. "The way of the ungodly shall perish" (Ps. 1.6), "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day" (Prov. 4:18).

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