

The Book of Ruth

Sunday School Series

by Dave Lueloff

Introduction to the Book of Ruth

Ruth 1:1 Now it came to pass **in the days when the judges ruled**, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

Judges 21:25 In those days *there was* no king in Israel: every man did *that which was* right in his own eyes.

Revelation 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: (Today)

Contrast the Book of Judges with the Book of Ruth

Judges

Rebellion
Self-will & Anarchy
Promiscuity
Wars & Fightings
Degradation & Desperation

Ruth

Submission
Obedience
Purity
Love & Loyalty
Devotion & Delight

Ruth is 1 of 2 books in the Bible that bear the name of a woman (Ruth & Esther).

Ruth, a Gentile woman marries a husband from the royal line of David. She becomes the great grandma of King David.

Esther, a young Hebrew woman marries a Gentile husband who is on the throne of a world's empire.

Ruth is 1 of 4 women in the genealogy of Jesus – Tamar, Rahab, Bathsheba & Ruth

The Book of Ruth is a love story – not a romantic love between a young man and a young woman, but a young woman and her devotion to her mother-in-law. Ruth – leaves Moab, cleaves to Naomi and believes in Naomi's God

It is also a book of redemption - a Moabites woman is brought into God's family by a 'kinsman redeemer.' She was a Gentile and looked upon as unclean, a sinner. She had no opportunity to become a part of the family of God, except for the work of the kinsman redeemer. Thus, the "Romance of Redemption" is the theme of Ruth.

The Moabites:

Genesis 19:36-37 Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father. And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab: the same *is* the father of the Moabites unto this day.

Deuteronomy 23:3 An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever:

Ruth 1:1 Now it came to pass **in the days when the judges ruled**, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

Judges 21:25 In those days *there was* no king in Israel: every man did *that which was* right in his own eyes.

Israel had been faithful to God under the leadership of Joshua and his elders.

Joshua 24:31 And Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that overlived Joshua, and which had known all the works of the LORD, that he had done for Israel.

Soon thereafter, they drifted from the Lord. They drifted via unbelief.

Hebrews 3:12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

The promise of God:

Joshua 3:10 And Joshua said, Hereby ye shall know that the living God *is* among you, and *that* he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Hivites, and the Perizzites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Jebusites.

The unbelief:

Judges 1:19 And the LORD was with Judah; and he drave out *the inhabitants of* the mountain; but could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron. (See Judges 1:21, 1:27-32)

Judges was also marked by apostasy, sodomy and sexual perversion (Judges chapters 17-21).

The Canaanites were driven out due to their sin – judgment similar to Sodom & Gomorrah:

Leviticus 18:22-24 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: *it is* abomination. Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: *it is* confusion. Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you:

Ruth is another example that one can live godly in a wicked time. Noah lived in a wicked era.

Genesis 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that every* imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

Genesis 6:9 These *are* the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man *and* perfect in his generations, *and* Noah walked with God.

Boaz – He was wealthy man who is a near kinsman to Ruth's husband. His mother is Rahab. He is the son of Salmon, the son of Pharez, the son of Judah

Ruth Chapter 1

The Setting Vs. 1-7

Husband & Wife	Elimelech & Naomi
2 Sons	Mahlon & Chilion
2 Daughters-in-law	Orpah & Ruth

A famine befell Canaan and a Hebrew, Elimelech sought temporary refuge in that land of Moab, taking with him his wife and their two sons.

They reached Moab, but while seeking a livelihood, they forfeited life itself. They sought bread, but found graves. The dad died (Elimelech) and his fatherless sons married Moabites. Soon afterwards, the two sons also died, leaving their two widows with the already widowed Naomi.

The Decision Vs. 8-18

Naomi pleads with Orpah & Ruth to return to their mother's house to find 'rest.' This *rest* would have been to find a husband. For the ancient Orient, an unmarried woman could find safety and respect in the house of a husband. This would be a shelter from servitude, neglect or license. (BAXTER)

The decision to follow Naomi by Ruth is one of devoted love. Naomi encourages Ruth to return home.

Ruth 1:8 And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.

Ruth 1:11 And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? *are* there yet *any more* sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?

Ruth 1:15 And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law.

Ruth gives us the wonderful text as she decides to cleave to her mother-in-law.

Ruth 1:16-17 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, *or* to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people *shall be* my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, *if ought* but death part thee and me.

Ruth has learned of the true God that Naomi loves and Ruth has made the decision that she will stay with Naomi no matter what come. Naomi stops trying to convince Ruth to leave (Ruth 1:18).

Decisions are an integral part of life. Elimelech decided to leave Bethlehem-Judah for Moab, Mahlon and Chilion decided to marry Moabitish women, Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem, Orpah decided to return to her Moabitish family, and Ruth decided to cleave to Naomi, claim her God and accompany her to Bethlehem.

When decisions are made, one must ask, "What will be the spiritual impact upon me and those I love in this move. Jonah teaches us that you cannot run from the all-seeing God. Lot teaches us that moving for the lust of the eyes may bring great ruin. Elimelech, leaving the will of God, to move to Moab brought heartache. He probably thought he would move there until the famine was over, however:

Ruth 1:4 And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one *was* Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and **they dwelled there about ten years.**

When one seeks greener pastures, we must be reminded that often greener grass grows over the septic system. Beware of selfish decisions:

Judges 14:3 Then his father and his mother said unto him, *Is there* never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, **Get her for me;** for she pleaseth me well.

2 Samuel 11:3 And **David sent and inquired after the woman.** And *one* said, *Is not* this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

Luke 15:12 And the younger of them said to *his* father, Father, **give me** the portion of goods that falleth to *me*. And he divided unto them *his* living.

Luke 12:13 And one of the company said unto him, Master, **speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.**

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

God overrules this wrong conduct by Elimelech and by His grace gives blessing and bliss.

The Return to Bethlehem-Judah Vs. 19-22

Ruth 1:20 And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.

Mara means *bitter*. Naomi now returns to the land that Jehovah had given to His people. Ruth is with her. It is, by the providence of God, the beginning of barley harvest.

When life takes you to places that are beyond your control, God will work on your behalf. It was not the decision of Naomi to leave Bethlehem-Judah.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

Ruth Chapter 1

Naomi chooses not to remain in Moab.

Ruth 1:7 Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they **went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.**

She could have adopted the attitude, "I can work this out, somehow we can figure our way out of this." Naomi is a type of Israel who has been out of their land and is returning. Orpah prefigures the majority of Israel who will stay among the nations of the world. Ruth prefigures the remnant that returns to Israel. The influence of Naomi's life caused others to come along with her. (JAMES JONES)

Zechariah 8:23 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days *it shall come to pass*, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard *that God is with you.*

The choice to stay in Moab or to go to Bethlehem-Judah has everything to do with which God / god you will serve.

Ruth 1:15 And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law.

Ruth 1:16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, *or to return from following after thee*: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people *shall be* my people, and thy God my God:

The choice to be made:

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

1 Kings 18:21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD *be* God, follow him: but if Baal, *then* follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

Big choices are the result of the million little choices.

2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart *is* not with thee.

The pondering before the decision is made:

Ruth 1:8 And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, **Go, return** each to her mother's house...

Ruth 1:11 And Naomi said, **Turn again, my daughters:** why will ye go with me...

Ruth 1:15 ...thy sister in law is gone back unto her people...her gods: **return thou** after thy sister in law.

2 very opposite paths are taken:

Ruth 1:14 And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her.

Galatians 5:16-17 ...Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other...

1 John 2:15-16 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Orpah had some inward, private craving that she would not let go of:

Ruth 1:15 And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law.

In her emotions, Orpah knew what to do. She wept and kissed Naomi (1:14), but her heart remained in Moab and with her gods.

John 5:40 "And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." Jesus is saying, 'ye will not to come' or 'your will is not to come.'

In order to be saved, your will must be broken and given in to the will of God. Lucifer said five times, "I will." Antichrist is referred to as the "willful king."

Ruth made a break with her past and wholly followed Naomi out of love. The path forward by two unprotected and poverty-stricken women was 120 miles long. Jesus Christ never promised a life of ease and comfort. It is a life of moving forward that is motivated by love and devotion.

Luke 9:23 And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Luke 9:62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Ruth 1:19-22

Ruth 1:22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

➤ **And Ruth...**

Ruth is with her due to her decision to *follow her*.

This is truly a picture of salvation as Jesus Christ, on 14 occasions, said, "Follow me."

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Ruth 1:16-17 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, *or* to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people *shall be* my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, *if ought* but death part thee and me.

Follow her path ...whither thou goest, I will go...

120 miles to Bethelam-Judah – poverty-stricken and unprotected (Prov. 3:5)

Follow her place ... where thou lodgest, I will lodge...

See Luke 9:57-62; Mark 8:34-38

Follow her people ...thy people shall be my people...

Staying in Moab = a Moabite / Returning to Bethlehem-Judah = Israelite

Baptism identifies you with the Lord Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection

Follow her priority ...and thy God, my God...

Follow her plight ... where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried...

Ruth 1:19 So **they two went until they came to Bethlehem**. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, *Is this Naomi?*

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

➤ **Naomi is a Broken Woman. God uses Broken Vessels**

Ruth 1:20-21 And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why *then* call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?

Psalms 34:18 The LORD *is* nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Matthew 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

➤ **So Naomi Returned**

She is a pilgrim – on a journey - a path forward of 120 miles by two unprotected and poverty-stricken women. Jesus Christ never promised a life of ease and comfort. It is a life of moving forward that is motivated by love and devotion.

Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Hebrews 11:26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

➤ **In Beginning of Barley Harvest**

It is the providence of God that Naomi arrives in the beginning of barley harvest. God will use His providence during this time. He will use the result of *all things* in the life of Naomi for good.

Barley was the first grain to ripen. Food is in abundance. As a result of Naomi making a wise decision, Naomi is blessed, Ruth is blessed, famine is over, Ruth meets up with Boaz; they get married and Naomi's life is enriched by becoming the great-great-grandmother to King David.

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

All things are not good – it is not good Elimelech moved to Maob. It is not good that her sons died. It is not good that Naomi is a impoverished widow. However, all things work together for good – Naomi and her Ruth will be blessed by God and the latter end will be wonderful as we peruse the book of Ruth.

All things are not good – it is not good to eat by itself flour or baking powder, or salt or sugar or egg or vanilla extract. But you put them all in a bowl, mix 'em up and bake at 350 degrees and you get CAKE!!

Job found out that all things worked out for good. Paul also found that out (2 Cor. 12:9). If you love God, Romans 8:28 is a promise. Just trust Him.

Job 42:10 And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

Ruth Chapter 2

The setting: Naomi is so destitute that she must allow Ruth to be a poverty-stricken gleaner among the roughish reapers to get food. Ruth is providentially led to the field of Boaz, a wealthy kinsman of Naomi. Boaz, a kind and virtuous gentleman, is impressed by the charm and modesty of Ruth, and extends special privileges and protection for her.

The labor the women would do would be considered very heavy; in fact, much would be thought of as slave labor. Harvest time demanded much of them.

Ruth returns the first day with a goodly supply and Naomi perceives the hand of God in what has happened. Ruth continues her gleaning throughout the barley and wheat harvests in the field of Boaz.

Gleaning was established by God for the poor. God has a way for the poor to be cared for and He has promised to bless those who make provision for them. It is not a give-away program like welfare. Work must be done.

Leviticus 19:9 And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest.

Leviticus 23:22 And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleaning of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I *am* the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 24:19 When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hands.

Poverty is not a blessing and riches are not evil.

The poor (The word *poor* is found 38 times in the book of Proverbs)

Proverbs 19:17 He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again. **Matthew 26:11** For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always.

James 2:5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

The rich

James 5:3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

The Biblical view

1 Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

1 Timothy 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

Hebrews 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Matthew 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Luke 9:58 And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head.

2 Corinthians 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Psalms 73:3 For I was envious at the foolish, *when* I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Psalms 73:17-19 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; *then* understood I their end. Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. How are they *brought* into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

Psalms 37:25 I have been young, and *now* am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Money is a tool to accomplish something....

Luke 16:11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true *riches*?

Helping our kin

Ruth 2:1 And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name *was* Boaz.

If Boaz was wealthy when Elimelech went to Moab, he decided to 'make it on his own' rather than ask for help from Boaz. Pride can be a culprit. We are to help others. Even the poor are to help the poor!

1 John 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

Proverbs 28:3 A poor man that oppresseth the poor *is like* a sweeping rain which leaveth no food.

Ruth Chapter 2

Ruth is devoted to Naomi and to her task of gleaning

Boaz is devoted to the Lord and the reapers

The reapers are devoted to their task and their *boss*, Boaz

Boaz is devoted to proper, provisional and protective care of Ruth

What does Ruth have to offer? No Israelite would marry a Gentile woman.

Ruth 1:21 I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why *then* call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?

Ruth 2:10 Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I *am* a stranger?

She admits to being a poor stranger. She is a Gentile and a member of a cursed race.

Genesis 19:36-37 Thus were both the daughters of Lot with child by their father. And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab: the same *is* the father of the Moabites unto this day.

Deuteronomy 23:3 An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever:

However, Ruth has a rare quality. She was willing to do hard work and she was a virtuous woman. We are reminded of the day and age she lived in. It was during the time described as: "In those days *there* was no king in Israel: every man did *that which* was right in his own eyes." Judges 21:25

Ruth's family and nation were idol worshippers. She resisted the temptation of the flesh, the lure of acceptance and advancement via her beauty and instead was faithful to the Lord and His acceptance.

Here is a picture of repentance and faith. She left behind... and fully trusted the Lord

Ruth 2:11 And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and *how* thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore.

Ruth 2:12 The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, **under whose wings thou art come to trust.**

Acts 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

Matthew 4:19-20 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left *their* nets, and followed him.

Have you experience the new birth? One must leave all to find Bible salvation.

Ruth 1:16-17 And Ruth said...for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people *shall be* my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried...

Luke 18:22-24 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

Mark 10:24 And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that **trust in riches** to enter into the kingdom of God!

Ruth went alone – to work

Ruth 2:2 And Ruth the Moabite said unto Naomi, **Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him** in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.

We must keep our eyes upon Jesus Christ as we serve Him. Many will be half-hearted, some will be fraudulent, some will serve when convenient, but Christ asks for our all.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

It can be lonely serving the Lord. You can see loneliness in the writings of Paul:

2 Tim. 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation...

2 Tim. 4:14 Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:

2 Tim. 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed...

2 Tim. 4:16-17 At my first answer **no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God** that it may not be laid to their charge. **Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me;** that by me the preaching might be fully known, and *that* all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

The apostle's suffered for the cause of Christ

1 Corinthians 4:9-11 "For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

We *are* fools for Christ's sake, but ye *are* wise in Christ; we *are* weak, but ye *are* strong; ye *are* honourable, but we *are* despised.

Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace..."

1 Corinthians 4:13 Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, *and are* the offscouring of all things unto this day.

2 Corinthians 12:15 And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.

Ruth was rewarded for her work

Ruth 2:17-18 So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley. And she took *it* up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed.

1 Corinthians 3:8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his **own reward according to his own labour.**

Hebrews 6:10 For **God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love**, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as **ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.**

Romans 14:12 So then **every one of us shall give account of himself to God.**

Ruth did not quit

Perhaps she learned perseverance from Naomi. "Trials, hardships, difficulties and chastisement are no stranger to the Lord's people in their pilgrimage on this earth. Ruth will teach us of faith, endurance, charity, meekness, trustworthiness and service. Her life encourages us during periods of disappointments, loneliness, scarcity and uncertainty." (James Jones Jr.)

Ruth's path was planned in providence – her faith was rewarded

Ruth 2:3 And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field *belonging* unto Boaz, who *was* of the kindred of Elimelech.

Ruth is the main character but God is the hero. In the providence of God, Ruth, the poor, lowly Gentile would become the much-loved wife of the master of the field in which the reapers had given her a friendly welcome.

She just went to glean. She had no idea whose field she was in. There were no fences to mark off property lines, but God knew which field she would be impressed upon to begin her gathering. Ruth was to find her fulfilment on the inside. She had chosen the Lord (Ruth 1:16-17) over material things.

Hebrews 11:24-26 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for **he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.**

Hebrews 11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for **he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.**

Ruth Chapter 2

God uses busy people

Ruth 2:2 And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, **Let me now go to the field, and glean** ears of corn...

Ruth 2:7 And she said, I pray you, **let me glean and gather** after the reapers among the sheaves...

Stay busy with “menial tasks”

1 Samuel 17:15 But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

Amos 7:14-15 Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, I *was* no prophet, neither *was* I a prophet's son; but I *was* an herdman, and a gatherer of sycomore fruit: And the LORD took me as I followed the flock, and the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel.

Matthew 9:37-38 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

God's unseen hand helps Ruth

Ruth 2:3 And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field *belonging* unto Boaz, who *was* of the kindred of Elimelech.

Ruth 2:10-12 Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldst take knowledge of me, seeing I *am* a stranger? And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and *how* thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore. The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.

Boaz – a man of wealth & morals / he loved the Lord and a great boss

Ruth 2:4 And, behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said unto the reapers, The LORD *be* with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee.

The *Lord of the harvest* recognizes Ruth:

Ruth 2:5 Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel *is* this?

The moving of God the Holy Spirit is a mystery. Like the wind, we never know when the sweet Holy Spirit will show up and convict a sinner of his / her need of a Saviour.

John 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

The servant notices the testimony of Ruth 2:6-7

Your actions speak louder than words; and people notice your actions.

1 Corinthians 8:3 But if any man love God, the same is known of him.

Boaz speaks to Ruth 2:8-9

In the providence of God, Boaz, great kindness, gives Ruth privileges and benefits which have been designated for others.

Ruth's humility & thankfulness 2:10

She is overwhelmed by the kindness of Boaz. She is awed by the grace shown.

1 Timothy 1:15 This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

Philippians 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,

Ruth's testimony 2:11

Her testimony of what she did (vs. 11) is due to: **Ruth 2:12** The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, **under whose wings thou art come to trust.**

Two of the hardest things in the world to do are to leave your relatives and to leave your religion. Ruth left both as she devoted her life to Naomi and her God (Ruth 1:16-17).

Matthew 10:37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Ruth leaves her old associations; leans upon the one true God; labors among the people of God; lowers herself in her own eyes; and lingers under the wings of the Almighty.

When the Bible speaks of a shelter *under the wings of the Almighty*, the reference has to do with:

Exodus 25:20 And the cherubims shall stretch forth *their* wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces *shall look* one to another...

Hebrews 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

See Ps. 80:1; 36:7; 61:4; 91:1-4; Matt 23:37

The invitation is for both saved and unsaved to find this place of safety, security and serenity.

We enter into His presence – the mercy seat – a place where the wings of the cherubim overshadow....

Where do you go to when in trouble?

Ruth Chapter 2

Ruth 2:13 Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens.

Ruth expresses humility. She is not deceptively modest – “I am nothing....” Humility is an honest expression of who we truly are in relation to the Creator Who is self-existent, sovereign, eternal, unchanging, all-holy, all-knowing, all-powerful and ever-present.

Jeremiah 23:24 Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

Gen. 1:16 ...the greater light to rule the day...the lesser light to rule the night: *he made* the stars also.

She asserts her not meriting the grace bestowed but also conveys a confidence that he would continue his favor towards her.

Ruth 2:14 And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched *corn*, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left.

Perhaps here is the start of a romantic attraction from Boaz. Ruth had humbled herself lower than the maidens, but now thru the grace of Boaz, she is lifted above them. Ruth is *The Romance of Redemption*.

Luke 15:17-24 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! ...And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put *it* on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on *his* feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill *it*; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

Have you experienced the love of Christ for you? Has His love wooed you to give your soul to Him?

Matthew 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Ruth 2:14 And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither...and she did eat, and was sufficed..

Psalms 34:8 O taste and see that the LORD *is* good: blessed *is* the man *that* trusteth in him.

Only Jesus can satisfy the inner hunger. (ILL My roommate – not agree – eastern religion, cults...)

Ruth, a heathen, is now sitting at Boaz' table and eating...until she is sufficed.

Ruth 2:15 And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not:

Ruth returns to gleaning. She is full, but there are others that need food – an unselfish act. Rather than bragging on the grace bestowed upon her, she goes back to work to help provide for others.

God did not save us to sit; he saved us to ‘get up and git.’ God did not forgive us to keep it to ourselves, he died for us that we might ‘die’ for others.

Matt. 16:24-25 ...If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

1 Corinthians 15:31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

Ruth 2:16-19 And let **fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her**, and leave *them*, that **she may glean them...** **So she gleaned** in the field until even, and beat out that **she had gleaned...**and her mother in law saw what **she had gleaned:** and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed. And her mother in law said unto her, **Where hast thou gleaned** to day?.

While one meditates upon the Scriptures, he/she will glean some precious nugget to sustain us in this life. The Bible was not written for our intellect, but to feed our soul. Gleaning comes to those who seek.

Psalms 119:162 I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.

Proverbs 2:4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures;

Romans 10:17 So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Matthew 5:6 Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Ruth 2:19-20 ...Where hast thou gleaned to day? ...And she shewed her mother in law with whom she had wrought, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought to day *is* Boaz. And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed *be* he of the LORD, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man *is* near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen.

Naomi was thrilled at the gleanings. When God blesses, it can be more than one could imagine.

Ephesians 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think...

Mark 8:19 When I brake the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? They say unto him, Twelve.

Where hast thou gleaned today? TV, Internet, Facebook, Hollywood, Sports or the Word of God?

“Naomi said unto her, The man *is* near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen.” Ruth 2:20

Boaz would be the Kinsman-redeemer for her, yet Ruth labored until the end of harvest. (2:23)

Ruth Chapter 3

Naomi – desire for Ruth to find a place (home) of security and provision. *Rest* in vs. 1 indicates a *home*. She has a plan (for Ruth to embrace rest from laboring in the field to being a keeper at home)

Ruth – desire to obey Naomi’s instructions
She is loyal (a continued adherence to her since Ruth 1:16-17)

Boaz – desire to assist Ruth’s claim upon him and assume the cost as a near kinsman.
A legal transaction

- Naomi's advice to Ruth, how to procure herself a marriage with Boaz Ruth 3:1-5
- She acts according to her mother-in-law's direction, and is kindly received by Boaz, who promises to marry her, should her nearer kinsman refuse Ruth 3:6-13
- He gives her six measures of barley, and sends her away privately to her mother-in-law, who augurs favorably of the issue of the plan she had laid Ruth 3:14-18

Deuteronomy 25:5-6 If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her. And it shall be, *that* the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother *which is* dead, that his name be not put out of Israel.

Boaz, a wealthy land-owner sleeping among the heaps of corn and Ruth nestling under the corner of his long robe, simply making a legal claim in the approved manner of the time are both foreign concepts to us as Westerners of today. The kinsman-redeemer concept is a Biblical concept.

Naomi, the wife of Ruth’s deceased father-in-law, really had claim on him, though now, by this act of sending Ruth, Naomi has waived her claim in Ruth’s favor. Boaz sending her home with six measures of barley indicates that he would lose no time in making the transaction happen.

Naomi’s advice to Ruth 3:1-5

Naomi perceives that Boaz would be a near kinsman and would be a kind and gracious redeemer and husband. This is now Naomi’s time to be a blessing to Ruth. She must go to him – the kinsman-redeemer – not to any other. She knew where he would be (vs.4). This is a type of Christ – He is the only one Who can truly redeem us.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

John 10:1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

He is waiting to forgive and save:

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Ruth 3:3 Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee...

Are we truly saved? Are we storing up treasures (gold) in heaven? Will we be arrayed in white robes?

Revelation 3:18 I counsel thee to **buy of me gold tried in the fire**, that thou mayest be rich; and **white raiment**, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and **anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.**

Well the best thing in my life I ever did do, oh the best thing in my life I ever did do, yes the best thing in my life I ever did do, was take off the old robe and put on the new.

Well, the old robe was dirty, all tattered and torn; but the new robe was spotless and never been worn; oh the best thing in my life I ever did do, was take off the old robe and put on the new.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Ruth follows this advice 3:6-13

Ruth 3:8 And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet.

To bow at one's feet was to offer oneself in total submission. Perhaps Ruth is thinking:

"I will submit to your will; whatever you choose to do, I accept. I was nothing; I had nothing before I met you. I cast my destiny upon you. I fully trust you and pledge my allegiance to you. "

2 Samuel 9:6 Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant!

Acts 9:6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

Self-will and serving the Lord are polar opposites. One is Satanic and one is spiritual. Lucifer:

Isaiah 14:13-14 For thou hast **said in thine heart, I will** ascend into heaven, **I will** exalt my throne above the stars of God: **I will** sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will** be like the most High.

The submissive spirit of Ruth is seen in Ruth 1:16-17, 2:10, 3:5 and now 3:7-8. There is no hint at all here that Ruth is inviting Boaz to act improper or immoral. She did not lie down beside him in seduction but rather below him as submission – at his feet.

Ruth Chapter 3:8-18

At His Feet Ruth 3:8 The theme of *Ruth* is the *Romance of Redemption*. Our redemption is pictured by the story of Ruth. A lowly sinner is redeemed by our *Boaz*.

The submissive spirit of Ruth is seen in Ruth 1:16-17, 2:10, 3:5 and now 3:7-8. There is no hint at all here that Ruth is inviting Boaz to act improper or immoral. She did not lie down beside him in seduction but rather below him as submission – **at his feet**.

Luke 7:37-38 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind *him* weeping, and began to **wash his feet with tears**, and did wipe *them* with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed *them* with the ointment.

Luke 8:35 ...found the **man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus**, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.

Luke 10:38-42 ...a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called **Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word**. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Psalms 34:18 The LORD *is* nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Spreading of the Skirt Ruth 3:9 And he said, Who *art* thou? And she answered, I *am* Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou *art* a near kinsman.

Ruth (3:9) is in effect saying, "Marry me, marry me, Boaz. Take me on as your wife." Even to this day, when a Jew marries a woman, he throws the end of his skirt or talith over her, to signify that he has taken her under his protection.

Boaz' response

Ruth 3:11 And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou *art* a virtuous woman.

Boaz tells her that he is willing to redeem, but he obviously, in his previous interest in Ruth, had researched and found out that there was one that was a nearer kinsman than himself.

Ruth 3:12-13 And now it is true that I *am thy* near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I. Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, *that* if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, **as the LORD liveth**: lie down until the morning.

Boaz must marry Ruth legally – and not bypass the nearest kinsman.

3:14-18 Boaz sending her home with six measures of barley indicates that he would lose no time in making the transaction happen.

The redemption would be an act fully done by Boaz – nothing Ruth could do to redeem herself. The kinsman-redeemer must be able to redeem and willing to redeem.

Jesus Christ as He took upon human flesh, became a near kinsman.

Hebrews 2:14-15 Forasmuch then as the children are **partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same**; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

John 1:1&14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**... And the **Word was made flesh**, and dwelt among us...

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world...

He is able to redeem

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Colossians 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

Hebrews 10:12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

He is willing to redeem

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

1 Timothy 1:16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Ruth Chapter 4:1-8

Chapter 4 culminates this story. Boaz, without delay, contracts with the nearest kinsman, in the presence of elders and witnesses, and according to custom, at the city gate. This anonymous kinsman admits his obligation, and is willing to buy the land which was Elimelech's. But he declines when he learns that in so doing, he must also take a *Moabitess* to be his wife. His objection being, "*lest I mar mine own inheritance.*"

His view would be that Mahon and Chilion had broken the law in marrying a Moabite, and that the calamities which had befallen them and Naomi were due to this, and would come to him if he married one of these widowed women.

To Boaz, Ruth was far more precious than land. She became his wife, and by him became the mother of a son who in turn became the father of Jesse, the father of David, the great king of Israel.

Psalms 30:5 ...weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning.

The Book of Ruth begins with a story full of family, but empty of food (famine), then full of food but empty of family (death and mourning). It ends full in every way – blessed beyond measure.

Is that not the Christian life – we are destitute sinners in need of redemption. Jesus Christ has redeemed us and blessed us – culminates with an eternal home in heaven.

Exodus 34:6-7 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear *the guilty*; visiting the iniquity of the fathers...unto the third and to the fourth *generation*.

INHERITANCES: One of the reasons Naomi was so destitute. Elimelech must have purchased property in Moab. His two sons would have inherited the land, but now only three widows left, the laws of ancient east – women could not inherit property. The land would go back to the original Moabite owner.

This type of law was changed in Numbers 27:1-11. Women pleaded their case with the Lord and He sided with them. Justice is served and we learn that no one is unimportant with God, and no cause disregarded by him.

When women inherit and marry other tribes, it becomes complicated. So in Numbers 36:1-10, The inconvenience of daughters inheriting is remedied by a general command that all such marry in the tribe of their fathers, to which of them they shall think best.

The Nearest Kinsman – Unknown

Ruth 4:1 Then went Boaz up to the gate, and sat him down there: and, behold, the kinsman of whom Boaz spake came by; unto whom he said, Ho, **such a one!** turn aside, sit down here. And he turned aside, and sat down.

“Such a one” “What’s his face” ...only one without a name – here are definitions of others:

Elimelech – My God is King	Mahlon – Failing	Chilion – Sickly	Naomi – Pleasantness
Ruth – Friendship	Mara – Bitter	Orpah – Neck as beauty	
Boaz – Strength	Obed – Servant	Ol’ What’s his name! (Unnamed Kinsman)	

Nearest kinsman refuses to perform the task of redeemer

Ruth 4:6-8 And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem *it* for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem *it*. Now this *was the manner* in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave *it* to his neighbour: and this *was* a testimony in Israel. Therefore the kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy *it* for thee. So he drew off his shoe.

Deuteronomy 25:5-6 If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her...

Deuteronomy 25:7-10 And if the man like not to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate unto the elders, and say, My husband's brother refuseth to raise up unto his brother a name in Israel, he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother. Then the elders of his city shall call him, and speak unto him: and *if* he stand *to it*, and say, I like not to take her; Then shall his brother's wife come unto him in the presence of the elders, and loose his shoe from off his foot, and spit in his face, and shall answer and say, So shall it be done unto that man that will not build up his brother's house. And his name shall be called in Israel, The house of him that hath his shoe loosed.

For the spitting in the face and the unloosing of the shoe are but symbols of dire disgrace – strongest expressions of contempt. Decisions have lasting consequences.

Proverbs 10:7 The memory of the just *is* blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

Boaz steps up to redeem:

Ruth 4:9-11 And Boaz said unto the elders, and *unto* all the people, Ye *are* witnesses this day, that I have bought all that *was* Elimelech's, and all that *was* Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi. Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye *are* witnesses this day. And all the people that *were* in the gate, and the elders, said, *We are* witnesses...

Ruth Chapter 4:9-22

Boaz steps up to redeem in Ruth 4:9-11. The kinsman must be able and willing to redeem:

2 Corinthians 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him...

Luke 22:42-44 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him...

Ruth – whatsoever she did prospered.

Ruth – tragedy of losing a loved one; a long journey in great poverty; tireless toiling in fields as gleaner; thoughtfulness of Naomi; testimony among the people, birth of Obed...God blesses the godly.

Psalms 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Genesis 39:2-3 And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man...And his master saw that the LORD *was* with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

Genesis 39:22-23 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that *were* in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer *of it*. The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing *that was* under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and *that* which he did, the LORD made *it* to prosper.

Ruth has NOTHING to offer Boaz, yet he redeems her! What a picture of what Christ has done for us.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Orpah missed out by not following Naomi. The nearest kinsman missed out by refusing to marry Ruth *lest he mar his inheritance*. It cost him the blessing of being in the lineage of Jesus Christ. Both of these people missed out in things that really matter. You may have gain in this life, but to reject redemption will cause you to miss out on – eternity!

1 Jn 2:17 ...world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

The Bible is a book with a major theme of redemption.

The O.T. The Path of Redemption is Paved

The Gospels The Price of Redemption is Paid

The Acts	The Power of Redemption is Proclaimed
The Epistles	The Principles of Redemption is Provided
The Revelation	The Promise of Redemption is Perfected

Redemption involves a Purchase

Rev. 5:9 ...saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Redemption involves a Price

1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things... But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Redemption involves a Prospect

Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:

Redemption restores the loss incurred by sin. Our final redemption:

1 Thess. 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 8:23 And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

Eph. 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Romans 8:16-17 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

Exodus 13:15 ...but all the firstborn of my children I redeem.

Thirty days being expired after the birth of the child...the father of the child bringeth before the priest, in a bowl or basin, a good quantity of gold and silver, and then they give him the child into his arms; the priest then calling the mother of it before him, saith unto her, mistress, is this your son? she answereth, yes; then, replies he, have you never had any child before, either male or female, or have miscarried anyone? she saith unto him, no; then doth the priest say, this child is mine, as being the firstborn; then turning himself toward the father, he asketh him, whether he will redeem it or not? who answereth him, saying, see, here is gold and silver, take your own price; then saith the priest unto him, you will redeem it then? the father answereth, I will redeem it; it shall be so then, saith the priest, this child is mine as being the firstborn, as it is written, [Nu 18:16](#). I therefore take this in exchange, etc. and so he takes the sum of two French crowns, or thereabout, as he thinks good, and then delivers the child to his father and mother, and this day they make a feasting day. This custom was used in Christ's time, and was observed with respect to him, [Lu 2:27](#). GILL Commentary