

Theme: God works to restore us through the work of a kinsman redeemer, a close relative who protects and provides for us.

I. Intro – Review

- A. Story of Naomi and her family
- B. 3 key problems: foreigner, food, family
 - 1. Foreigner – living in Moab
 - 2. Food – famine, no husbands
 - 3. Family – husband, sons dead
- C. Restoration
 - 1. Foreigner – return to Judah (chap 1)
 - 2. Food – harvest in Boaz field (chap 2)
 - 3. Family – what will happen?

II. The Plan (3:1-5)

- A. The need: a husband for Ruth (v1)
 - 1. Acting as a mother – Ruth is family
 - 2. This was her prayer in 1:9 ('find rest')
- B. The candidate: Boaz, the relative (v2)
 - 1. Obviously a righteous man (chap 2)
 - 2. A close relative (1; 2:1)

C. The plan: to the threshing floor (vv2b-5)

- 1. He will be at threshing floor (v2b)
- 2. Make yourself attractive - wisdom (v3)
- 3. Uncover his feet and lie down (v4)
- 4. He will tell you what to do (v5)

D. The sexual overtones of the passage

- 1. The setting – clandestine meeting at night
- 2. Terms
 - a. Uncover (v4, Dt. 22:30; Dt. 27:20)
 - b. Lie down (v4, Gen 19:32; Ex 22:19)
 - c. To know (v4 “note”; Gen 4:1 KJV)
 - d. Go in (v4; Gen 16:2; Ruth 4:13)
 - e. Moabitess – sexual background
- 3. Will they give in or be faithful?

III. The Execution of the Plan (3:6-15)

- A. Ruth executes the plan – precisely? (vv6-8)
- B. Course changes – Boaz startled; Ruth takes charge (vv8-9)
- C. Ruth's request – marry me (v9b)

1. Spread garment – marriage – Ezek 16:8
 2. Garment/wings – v9; 2:12
 3. Boaz – fulfill your prayer/blessing!!
- D. Ruth's request – be my goel (v9c)
1. Ruth is expanding the request here
 2. Mentioned in 2:20; key theme now
 3. Goel (& levir) – Deut 25:5-10; Lev 25
 4. Key idea: restore what has been lost
 - a. Property
 - b. Freedom
 - c. Justice
 - d. Heirs (levirate marriage)
 5. THE Goel of Israel: Yahweh (Gen 48:16; Ex 6:6)
 - a. All others patterned after Him
 - b. The call - act as Yahweh would (Ps 146:7-9)
- E. Boaz's response: Bless you for hesed! (v10)
1. Could have gone after young men
 2. More concerned about Naomi

3. This is hesed – covenant loyalty/kindness
 4. Same word in Ruth 1:8; 2:20
- F. Ruth, you are a woman of character
1. אִשְׁת־חַיִל – v 11; Prov 12:4; 31:10
 2. Similar phrase used of Boaz in 2:1
 3. Not only not unfaithful sexually – real virtue
- G. A problem – nearer redeemer (vv12-13)
1. He has first right of refusal
 2. Boaz will not usurp him – man of character
 3. Another problem to overcome!
- H. Boaz protects Ruth & provides for Naomi (v13-15)
1. He protects Ruth from danger – stay – v13
 2. He protects her reputation – unknown – v14
 3. He provides food for Naomi – v15
- IV. The Aftermath of the Plan (3:16-18)**
- A. Ruth to Naomi – it worked! (v16)
 - B. He sent me back – not empty – reverse 1:21
 - C. Naomi – he will finish the task! (v18)

D. The resolution – next week!

V. A Few Lessons

A. Note God's amazing sovereignty

1. God's law had provided a solution in advance
2. Boaz, Ruth, in place to rescue Naomi
3. How unlikely – a virtuous Moabite!
4. Do you see God as Sovereign in all of your life?
5. Do you trust him to work everything to your good?

B. Note human initiative

1. Naomi creates a plan
2. Ruth gets decked out to attract Boaz
3. Ruth shows further initiative – goel
4. God's Sovereignty doesn't lead to our inaction
5. Do you excuse inaction by God's Sovereignty?
6. Do you view God's Sovereignty as a reason to act?

C. Note human hesed as avenue of God's hesed

1. Ruth – an incredible example of hesed
2. Boaz and Naomi – the answer to their own prayers!

3. Do we trust God and act with hesed?

4. Do we put feet to our prayers?

Restoration Through A Kinsmen-Redeemer

Ruth 3

August 21, 2005

??????

Psalm 20:1-5

³⁰ "A man shall not take his father's wife so that he will not **uncover his father's skirt**. Deuteronomy 22:30 KJV

²⁰ 'Cursed is he who lies with his father's wife, because he has **uncovered his father's skirt**.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.' Deut 27:20 KJV

32 Let's get our father to drink wine and then **lie** with him and preserve our family line through our father. Genesis 19:32

¹⁹ "Whoever **lies** with an animal shall surely be put to death. Exodus 22:19

1 And Adam **knew** Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. Genesis 4:1 KJV

² And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing; I pray thee, **go in** unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai. Genesis 16:2

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when **he went in** unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son. Ruth 4:13

8 "Later I passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I **spread the corner of my garment** over you and covered your nakedness. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign LORD, and you became mine. Ezek 16:8

16 The angel who has redeemed me from all evil, Bless the lads; And may my name live on in them, And the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; And may they grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth." Gen 48:16

6 "Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. Exodus 6:6

⁷ He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, ⁸ the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous. ⁹ The LORD watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked. Psalm 146:7-9

4 **A wife of noble character** is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones. Proverbs 12:4

10 **A wife of noble character** who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Proverbs 31:10