

# Redeeming Love

## The Book of Ruth

### Restoration Through A Kinsman-Redeemer

#### Key idea:

In his willingness to serve as a kinsman-redeemer, Boaz points forward to our true Kinsman-Redeemer, Jesus, who redeems, frees, protects, and defends His people.

#### Key text:

Ruth 3

One day Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, should I not try to find a home for you, where you will be well provided for? <sup>2</sup> Is not Boaz, with whose servant girls you have been, a kinsman of ours? Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. <sup>3</sup> Wash and perfume yourself, and put on your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don’t let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. <sup>4</sup> When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do.” <sup>5</sup> “I will do whatever you say,” Ruth answered.

<sup>6</sup> So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do. <sup>7</sup> When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. <sup>8</sup> In the middle of the night something startled the man, and he turned and discovered a woman lying at his feet. <sup>9</sup> “Who are you?” he asked. “I am your servant Ruth,” she said. “Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer.”

<sup>10</sup> “The LORD bless you, my daughter,” he replied. “This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. <sup>11</sup> And now, my daughter, don’t be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All my fellow townsmen know that you are a woman of noble character. <sup>12</sup> Although it is true that I am near of kin, there is a kinsman-redeemer nearer than I. <sup>13</sup> Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to redeem, good; let him redeem. But if he is not willing, as surely as the LORD lives I will do it. Lie here until morning.”

<sup>14</sup> So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, “Don’t let it be known that a woman came to the threshing floor.” <sup>15</sup> He also said, “Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out.” When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and put it on her. Then he went back to town.

<sup>16</sup> When Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, “How did it go, my daughter?” Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her <sup>17</sup> and added, “He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, ‘Don’t go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’” <sup>18</sup> Then Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.”

### **Key points:**

1. With 3 and 4 are full of cultural institutions and practices that need to be understood to grasp what is happening.
2. The meeting of Boaz and Ruth at night is told with overtones of potential sexual temptation, but they remain faithful to God’s ways rather than giving in to temptation. Throughout the story they are seen as people of great character who act boldly to care for others
3. Ruth asks Boaz to put his prayers into action by marrying her as a kinsman-redeemer, a near relative who restored what was in danger or lost. This included freedom for those in slavery, justice and protection for those being oppressed, the restoration of property, and the giving of heirs for the future.
4. In his willingness to serve as a kinsman-redeemer, Boaz points forward to our true Kinsman-Redeemer, Jesus, who redeems, frees, protects, and defends His people.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What cultural traditions or practices mentioned in Ruth 3 seemed strange or unfamiliar to you? How does understanding the cultural context help us better interpret this passage?
2. In what ways might cultural differences, like those mentioned between Bangladesh and America, impact our interpretation and application of biblical narratives?
3. Discuss the boldness of Ruth's actions in approaching Boaz. What risks did she take, and what motivated her to take them?
4. How does Boaz's response to Ruth demonstrate his character? What qualities does he exhibit that we should emulate?
5. What can we learn from Boaz's response to Ruth about balancing personal desires with ethical responsibilities and cultural norms?
6. How does the repeated use of the Hebrew word 'chesed' (covenant faithfulness) in Ruth's story inform our understanding of God's character and our relationships with others?

7. The teaching noted the importance of character over outward appearance. How does this challenge our modern cultural values? In what ways can we cultivate and recognize noble character in ourselves and others?
8. How does understanding Jesus as our kinsman-redeemer deepen our appreciation for the gospel? In what ways has Jesus fulfilled this role in your life?
9. The teaching suggests that our faith should propel us into bold actions to serve others. Can you share an example of when your faith motivated you to take a bold step in serving someone else?
10. How does the concept of being "blessed to be a blessing" challenge or inspire you? In what areas of your life could you apply this principle more intentionally?

### **Practical Applications:**

1. Reflect on areas in your life where you need redemption. Take time this week to pray, asking Jesus to be your kinsman redeemer in these specific areas.
2. Identify someone in your community who may be in a "Ruth-like" situation (e.g., vulnerable, in need, or an outsider). Brainstorm ways you could be a "Boaz" to them this week.
3. Make a list of the ways God has blessed you. Choose one of those blessings and find a concrete way to use it to bless someone else this week.
4. Examine your own character. What qualities do you want to develop to become a person of "noble character"? Choose one area to focus on improving this week.
5. Share the concept of Jesus as our kinsman-redeemer with someone who may not be familiar with this aspect of the gospel. Be prepared to explain how it has impacted your own faith.
6. As a group, consider a bold action you could take together to serve your community, inspired by the examples of faith in the book of Ruth.
7. Spend time in prayer, asking God to give you opportunities to act boldly in faith this week, and the courage to follow through when those opportunities arise.
8. Listen to the new worship song [He Will Be](#). Meditate on the faithfulness and graciousness of God, and He is your Provider, covenant Protector, and merciful redeemer.