



“GOD’S COVENANT FAITHFULNESS”

WEEK FOUR – A KINSMAN REDEEMER

Read Chapter 4

BY DEFINITION, A KINSMAN REDEEMER WAS SOMEONE WHO REDEEMED WHAT WAS LOST – THIS COULD BE THE OTHER PERSONS’ PROPERTY, THEIR FREEDOM, OR EVEN THEIR NAME.

This, I believe is the most important part of the study of Ruth.

According to the Mosaic law, a male relative had the privilege or responsibility to act for a relative who was in trouble, danger or need of vindication. I like the thought that it was a privilege! *Leviticus 25:25* says, “If one of your Israelite relatives go bankrupt and are forced to sell some inherited land, then a close relative, a kinsman redeemer, may buy it back for them.” This is looking at very different time in history, but I do believe that as members of God’s family, we should be far more aware of those in need. Not only that, but we should be willing to do all we can to alleviate those needs. If we think about the early church in the book of Acts, we see that everyone gave of what they had to help others. As the old King James version says, “they had all things in common” – being aware of the needs of others. However, the world in which we live, overall, does not see things in this way.

- Do we see it as our responsibility to help others?

Today, we expect women to be able to look after themselves, and their families, if the need arises. We would not expect a woman to have to marry again to survive. However, in the time of Ruth, it was seen as essential. Women were always under the authority and protection of a man, (except for older women who outlived their husbands).

The last verse of chapter 3 reads: *“Then Naomi said to her, ‘Just be patient, my daughter, until we hear what happens. The man won’t rest until he has followed through on this. He will settle it today.’”*

- Is this a challenge to us? Do we always keep our word. As Christians it is important that we complete that which we have said we will do. I think most of us will have been let down by someone, and how hard that can be.

Another lesson for us to learn from the first verses of chapter 4 is that if we need to speak to someone about an issue, we should always have a person with us whom we trust and who can attest to what is said.

Boaz was an astute man, and he must have been certain that his plan would work.

- What does he offer the nearer kinsman redeemer in the family?
- Do you get the impression that he’s sure how his offer will be received?
- What was the man willing to do and what was he not prepared for?
- How was the transaction sealed?

Read verses 7 and 8:

This seems a strange custom, but you may remember in Exodus 3 that God tells Moses to remove his shoes because he is standing on holy ground. One commentator explains:

“Putting off the shoe was a token of respect and submission.” Some scholars consider that removing shoes signifies putting off the earthly or profane upon approaching the holy, as the Old Testament priests did when entering the sanctuary.

Here, I believe, they were conscious that all their deeds must be according to the law, and they were standing before God and asking Him to be their witness. Remember, Naomi would in effect be his mother-in-law too, and clearly, he wanted everyone to know what he had done.

- Might this be a lesson for us today?
- All the leaders and the people acknowledged that they were, indeed, witnesses.
- Verse 14 is prophetic in a way no one then could have understood.

Verse 13: “So Boaz married Ruth and took her home to live with him. When he slept with her, the Lord enabled her to become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son.”

This is interesting in more than one way. Clearly, Ruth had not been able to conceive a child during her marriage to Naomi’s son and her first-born child highlights the third aspect of this story: FAMILY TREES (or genealogies).

Remember how we talked about Naomi being bitter at the way God had dealt with her. ***Verses 14-17*** show how God gave to her a new start in her life.

- Have we ever experienced situations that seemed to put an end to our plans and dreams, but God has stepped in and done something amazing?

Read verses 18-22

This brings us to one of the greatest truths which impacts our lives:

Every Christmas we sing the carol *While shepherds watched their flocks by night*, and there is that wonderful verse:

***“To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
The Savior who is Christ the Lord...”***

“Boaz was the father of Obed. Obed was the father of Jesse. Jesse was the father of David.” Jesus was of the household and lineage of David (*Luke 2:4*).

Galatians 3:13 tells us that: “*Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, **cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree**), that the blessings of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*” We often sing those wonderful words:

***There is a Redeemer, Jesus God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.***

What this means is that ***JESUS IS OUR KINSMAN REDEEMER***. He has paid the price for our sins by dying on the cross – an event witnessed by friends and enemies. His death was predicted in the Old Testament – see Psalm 22, for example.

Without that redemption, there would be no salvation. Jesus paid the greatest price for us.

You can read in Matthew's Gospel chapter 1: *The Genealogy of Jesus Christ*. In other words, his family tree.

- Does it amaze you how the Scriptures confirm these truths time and again?
- Do we appreciate what Jesus has done for us?

- Having studied this wonderful story of Ruth, culminating in her being ‘rescued’ by her kinsman redeemer, does it make us realise how we need to know the Scriptures to fully appreciate all that God has planned for us?

Prayer: Father God, help us to fully appreciate your plan for our redemption and to thank you each day for all that Jesus has done for us. May we have the courage to share this wonderful truth with others.

Amen

The statue of *Christ the Redeemer, Brazil*

