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RUTH 3:1-4:22

We saw last week how Naomi and Ruth came back to Judah from Moab. We saw how Ruth went out to glean in the fields and how God led her to the field of Boaz. We saw how Boaz made sure Ruth was protected and provided for. And we saw at the end of the second chapter that when Naomi found out Ruth had gleaned in the field that belonged to Boaz that she told Ruth that Boaz was a relative...a kinsman of her dead husband.

For the sake of time...let me just summarize for you what takes place in **chapter 3**.

Naomi gave Ruth some specific instructions and Ruth followed them...

Naomi told Ruth to bathe herself and to anoint herself and to put on her best clothes and then to go down to the threshing floor of Boaz. She told her to wait until after Boaz had eaten his evening meal and laid down, then to go and lie down at his feet.

Ruth did exactly as Naomi told her and Boaz didn't even know Ruth was there until he woke up in the middle of the night and discovered her. Ruth told him she had come to him because he was a close relative.

Well, Boaz told Ruth that indeed he **was** a close relative, but he also told her that there was a relative even **closer** to her than he. However, Boaz also told Ruth to stay where she was until morning and then he would see if the closer relative was interested in redeeming her. Boaz protected Ruth that night and also provided her with six measures of barley.

Now, all Ruth had to do was wait and see how Boaz will handle this...

By the way, this was not an improper thing for Ruth to do. Naomi would not have instructed Ruth to do something that was improper. Boaz told his servants not to tell anyone Ruth had been there and I believe the reason he did this was to keep this nearer kinsman from finding out about Ruth before he had the opportunity to confront him.

What we're going to see in the next chapter is a beautiful picture of redemption. What we're also going to see is a happy ending. This story began last week with three funerals, but it ends with fullness. The Bible says "weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning."

Ruth 4:1-6...

Did you notice how many times the words "**redeem**" or "**redemption**" were used? It's used in this one chapter alone at least 8 times, depending on the translation you're using.

Now, there are three things I want you to see in **chapter 4**...three pictures. Remember we told you that in the Old Testament we have pictures of salvation and pictures of our Lord Jesus Christ? Sometimes we have to look for them a long time to see them and then they just burst out in front of us.

Why does God hide these things? Maybe just so we can have the joy of digging into the Scriptures and then discovering them. By looking beneath the surface we're going to see three pictures of salvation here in the **4th chapter of Ruth**. We're going to see a picture of our **Redeeming Lord** and a picture of our **Renewed Life**...what happens when we come to Jesus...

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and then we're going to see a picture of our **Restored Legacy**...what we get when come into the family of God.

1) Our Redeeming Lord

Ruth 4:1-6...

Let me quickly review the Law of the Levirate Marriage and the Law of the Kinsman Redeemer that we saw last week. God apportioned the land by family and tribe...and He intended that land to stay where He apportioned it.

Sometimes, however, a man would fall on hard times and he'd sell his land to somebody else. But God had a plan that if a man did this then somebody else who was a near relative could come and redeem that land and buy it back. This is where we get the name "**kinsman redeemer**."

There was also a law in the land called the "levirate marriage." If a man married a woman and they didn't have any children and the man died, then in order to keep his name alive a brother of this man was to come and take this man's wife, who is now a widow...and marry her and endeavor to have children so the dead man could have his name perpetuated. See, the land and the name were very important to the Jews.

Now, there were three things that were necessary in order for a man to be able to buy back the estate and to take the widow that came with the estate. Number one, he had to have the **legal qualifications**...that is, he had to be a **near kinsman**. Number two, he had to have the money to do it...he had to be **wealthy** enough to buy the land. Number three, he had to be **willing** to do it, because he wasn't forced to do it. So, he had to be a near kinsman. He had to be a near kinsman, he had to be wealthy enough to do it and he had to be willing enough to do it.

We said last Sunday that this was God's Law...and it was. However, it wasn't unusual for folks to break God's Law! And, of course, this came as no surprise to God, and He made a provision for the widow whose nearest kinsman would not redeem her. Let's look at this in **Deuteronomy 25:5-10...** (this will help us understand what will go on later in today's lesson...)

I want you to see how Boaz was **legally worthy**. **Verse 6** says, "...the kinsman said, 'I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I jeopardize my own inheritance. Redeem it for yourself; you may have my right of redemption, for I cannot redeem it.'"

Now, what does that mean? Well, Boaz had said to Ruth, "I'd be happy to buy this land back and I'd be happy to marry you, but I'm not the first in line. There's somebody else who's first in line. I am a near kinsman, but there is somebody who is nearer to you than I, and he has to have first chance. And if he doesn't do it, then I will do it."

So, they went out to the gate of the city and Boaz waited until he saw this man who was the nearer kinsman than even Boaz and Boaz explained to him about Ruth and Naomi and the land and all of that.

He said, "Do you want to buy this property? Do you want to redeem this property? You can do it. You have the right. You're standing in line. You're a near kinsman. You're a kinsman redeemer." He says, "Alright, I'll buy it." But then Boaz said, "Wait a minute...along with the land comes a woman, Ruth. You're going to have to marry Ruth if you buy this land...you're going to get Ruth along with the land." And the man said, "Oh no, I'm sorry, I cannot redeem it, lest I jeopardize my own inheritance."

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Now, who is this *nearer kinsman*? If Boaz pictures the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the nearer kinsman who cannot redeem? **He's Adam!** Everybody's either in Adam or they're in Christ. Think about it...who is my real, real close relative? Adam. We're all related to Adam, aren't we? And "in Adam, all die." He is the near relative that we all have.

Let me give you an example of how we know we're more closely related to Adam than we are the Lord Jesus Christ before we're saved.

EXAMPLE: Baby Chase trying to "steal" the shopping cart at the Children's Museum. Who taught him to do that? He inherited that tendency from Adam!!

Folks, I want to tell that our near kinsman is Adam! "And in Adam all die." Remember what Boaz said... He sat at the gate and he said, "Let's get ten witnesses...one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten." Who are the ten witnesses that say our Adamic nature cannot save us? The Ten Commandments! Count them up! And by the way, all of us are guilty of breaking all of them. You say, "Well, I've never committed adultery. I've never killed anybody." Oh, but the Bible says the Law hangs together.

The Bible says that if we break the law in one point, we're guilty of breaking them all. God demands perfection! You say, "Well, I've only broken two or three of them." Let's say you've only broken **one** of them. Let's say you're hanging over a fire by a chain of ten links. Nine of those links are forged steel and one of them is crepe paper. How safe would you be? You see, God demands perfection. There are ten witnesses that we cannot redeem ourselves and by the way, notice how full of "self" this nearer kinsman is, **Verse 6... "I, myself, I, my, my, I."** NO! He cannot do it...**he's so full of self and selfishness.**

Adam couldn't redeem mankind, but there came One who could...the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus became a human being that He might become our near kinsman.

You see, that's the reason for the incarnation.

Why did Jesus step out of the glory?

Why did He come to be born of a virgin?

Why did the great eternal God become a man?

Why the incarnation?

So, that He could be our near kinsman!!

Let me give you a verse...**Hebrews 2:14**... "Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is the devil."

Because you and I are flesh and blood, Jesus became flesh and blood that He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is the devil. The Bible now calls the Lord Jesus Christ our "brother." You see, that's why He became man...that He might be our near kinsman.

So I want to say first of all

a) Jesus is legally worthy...

He could not redeem us as God, though He is God. He had to redeem us as man. He had to be our *near kinsman*. Our estate was lost by the man, Adam...the *nearer kinsman*...It is redeemed by Man, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you remember when we were in the **Book of Revelation**? Remember when in **Revelation 5**, John saw a book in the hand of Almighty God as He sat on His throne? Remember how John began to weep because there was no one who was worthy to open that book? By the way, what

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was this book? **This book was the title deed to planet earth...and there's no one worthy to open it!!**

No one in **politics**, no one in **government**, no one in **religion**, no one in **science**, no one in **philosophy**, no one in **economics**, none of the angels...no one can open the book! You know, the question here is not who is willing, but who is worthy!! John sees that no one is worthy...until he sees the Lamb and the angel says, "Don't you cry, John, the Lamb is able to open the book."

But now only is Jesus legally worthy...

b) Jesus is lavishly wealthy!

Now, in order to buy back Ruth, Boaz had to have money. In **Chapter 2:1**, Boaz is not just called a wealthy man, he's a **mighty man of wealth**. So...the kinsman redeemer had to be a near kinsman and he had to have sufficiency to buy the estate back.

Now, Jesus is lavishly wealthy. You see, **Jesus paid a greater price for us than Boaz paid for Ruth.**

Listen to these verses:

1 Peter 1:18-19... "For as much as ye know that ye were not **redeemed** with corruptible things such as silver and gold word but with the precious blood of Christ as a Lamb without blemish and without spot."

Ephesians 1:7, "we're redeemed through His blood."

Revelation 5:9 ... "Thou hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood." **There's no redemption without a price. Jesus paid that price.**

1 Peter 3:18... "For Christ has also once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God."

Beloved, I hope you and I never ever take this for granted!
Jesus died for you and me! Jesus was legally worthy!
Jesus was lavishly wealthy...and He redeemed us with
His precious blood!!

Lastly...

c) Jesus was lovingly willing...

You see, Boaz didn't **have** to buy Ruth. Nor did the Lord Jesus have to buy us. There's nothing that says that He had to redeem us. I've told you many times, He does not love us because we're valuable...we're valuable because He loves us. He just loves us by His sheer grace, just as Boaz loved Ruth before Ruth ever knew his name.

And we love Him because He first loved us...that's the great love that He has for us...and so,

I want you to see that first of all **Boaz is a picture of our redeeming Lord**...
Legally worthy...lavishly wealthy...and lovingly willing.

Alright now, here's a second thing I want us to see. Not only do we have a picture of our redeeming Lord, but we also have a picture of:

2) Our Renewed Life

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Now, I want you to think about who Ruth was, and what Ruth was like. Ruth had three major problems. I'd like very much if you'd turn in your Bible to **Ephesians 2:12-13...and let's read as Paul describes what we were before we met the Lord Jesus Christ...**

Now, that's the story of Ruth. Ruth had three problems: Her past, her present and her future.

Every unsaved man and woman, boy or girl is like Ruth...and you've got three problems...your past...what was her past? She was born a Moabite! She was an **alien**. Look if you will again in this passage in **Ephesians 2:12...** "excluded from the commonwealth of Israel..." The KJV says, "being an **alien** from the commonwealth of Israel..." She was a Moabite. She was under a curse. **Deuteronomy 23:3...** "An Ammonite or a Moabite shall not enter the congregation of the Lord..." The Moabites were a thorn in the side of Israel. And the curse was upon them and according to the Law Ruth was shut out! **Spiritually, she was born on the wrong side of the tracks!! And so were everyone of us!** "In Adam all die."

Now, she was an **alien**...and that's her **past**. Now, her **present**...Look in **verse 12...** "strangers to the covenant of promise..." She did not enjoy the things of God. She was robbed of the things of God. She was a stranger to these things. The joys of life in Christ were not hers...hers was a life marred by tragedy and sorrow and her dreams were turned to dust and her hopes had melted away. That's her **present**, and everyone without Christ is in the same place! They are strangers to God's promises!!

And then **Ephesians 2:12** goes on to say "...having no hope..." That was her future! Hopeless! Her **past: cursed!** Her **present: crushed!** Her **future: condemned!** God help people understand where they are without Christ! If you're lost, that's exactly where you are...sitting in church won't change that...you need Jesus!

Ruth is a picture of all of us without Christ.

But, wait a minute. I want you to see what happens now.

Ephesians 2:19...

Do you know what the word "redeemed" means? It means **"to purchase...to buy back."** It also means **"to buy or buy out of the market place."** That is "to take off the slave block."

When our Lord redeemed us, not only did He buy us, but He took us out of the market place. That is, we're no longer for sale...that speaks of our eternal security. And then, to "redeem" means **"to set free."** And that's what happened to Ruth...that's what happened to me...I have been bought...I've been taken off the market place...and I have been set free in the Lord Jesus Christ!!

That's redemption! That's the wonderful doctrine of redemption that we read over and over and over again.

Ruth 7-10...

Remember that they are there at the gate of the city and this near kinsman says, "I can't buy her back. I don't want to jeopardize my own inheritance."

Now, notice in **verse 7 and 8...** "Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning the redemption and the exchange of land to confirm any matter: a man removed his sandal and gave it to another; and this was the manner of attestation in Israel." So the closest relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself." And he removed his sandal.

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Here's the way it worked...they would say, "Look, do you want to buy Ruth" and he says, "No, I can't buy Ruth. You buy Ruth." And then he took off his shoe and said, "She's yours." That's the way he confirmed it! He just took off his shoe and handed it to the other guy. What a strange custom!

The Bible is a rich and wonderful book. It talks of one person taking the place of another person. Listen, that's what Jesus did when He saved us...He stands in our shoes...He takes the sin, the hell, the punishment...all that we have coming...He pays the price that we cannot pay and Jesus says, "I will stand in your shoes" as Boaz stood in the shoes of that near kinsman. Jesus said, "I'll do for you what you cannot do for yourself...I'll stand in your shoes."

Here was this woman...her past, she's an alien...her present, she's outside the commonwealth of Israel, outside the promises of God...her future...no hope! Boaz says, "I'll take her place. I will redeem her."

Now, here's a third thing that I want you to see. We've seen our **Redeeming Lord**...we've see our **Renewed Life**. Now, I want you to see

3) **Our Restored Legacy**

Verse 10...

Very quickly I want to see that Ruth got five gifts...beginning at **verse 10**. First of all, look at the **family** she received...

Now, Ruth comes into a family and Friend, when you get saved, you come into the family of God... "I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God..." She received as a legacy a family.

We also see in **verse 10** that she received a **fortune**. Boaz, a mighty man of wealth, marries Ruth. No longer is Ruth just gleaning in the fields, picking up handfuls of grain... She is married to him and she shares his wealth.

Did you know that the Bible says we're heirs of God and joint-heirs with the Lord Jesus Christ! Do you know what joint-heirs means? It means "share and share alike." I mean everything that belongs to Jesus belongs to us! Have you ever thought about that? The Bible says "the meek shall inherit the earth."

She received a **family**. She received a **fortune**. Now, notice...and by the way, don't you ever be envious of the prosperity of the wicked...You're married to the Lord Jesus. The King of kings and the Lord of lords just happens to be our Bridegroom!!

Verse 11...

And then, she received **fame**. The name of Ruth today is spoken of with reverence. One of the most beautiful names in the world...and we're talking about her now...thousands of years later...she is famous!!

Without Jesus, we'd all die and our bodies would rot in the grave and our souls would burn in hell! But if we know Jesus, we'll shine as the brightness of the stars forever and ever and ever! If you know Jesus, Folks, you have fame...you're a royal blueblood...you're a princess... you're married into the family of God!!

Verses 11-15...

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She also received **fruitfulness**. A **family**. A **fortune**. A **fame**. A **fruitfulness**. Jesus said, "You've not chosen Me, I've chosen you and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit." She became fruitful.

Verses 16-17...

I wish I had more time, but last of all, she received a **future**. David, of course you know, is the ancestor of the Lord Jesus Christ! What a future this woman had. She's up in heaven right now, serving the Lord...glorying in the Lord. I wish we had more time...but time is gone.

You see, listen...here you are...your past, you're an alien...your present, you're a stranger to the covenants of promise...your future, you're without hope! But there is a Kinsman Redeemer. And He is legally worthy. He is lavishly wealthy. He is lovingly willing. And Jesus is saying to you today... **"I gave My life to redeem you...I want you to be My bride."** **That's what the church is...the bride of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Now, back in **verse 11**, when they got married, the Bible says all those witnesses were standing around. Can you imagine Ruth saying, "Well, you know, Boaz, I really would like to be married to you, Boaz, but I don't want anybody to know it. Could we just do this in secret?" No, she didn't feel that way. She was happy that everybody knew that she loved Boaz.

That's why we have a public invitation in our church. That's why we ask people to come forward. We've all been to weddings...the pastor stands there and coming down the aisle...dressed in white is the bride...and there's the bridegroom! She's not hoping that **no one** sees her! She's hoping that **everybody** sees her! Here she comes to him...not ashamed of him.

Jesus Christ said, "If you're ashamed of Me and My Word before this sinful and adulterous generation, I'll be ashamed of you when I come in the glory of the Father with the holy angels." How can you be ashamed of the One who died in agony and blood on that cruel Cross for you? You can't do it! He's your Kinsman Redeemer!! **Legally worthy! Lavishly wealthy! And lovingly willing!** And He's given all of us so many gifts...exceeding abundantly more than we could ever ask or think!!

My prayer is that everyone in this room has said "I do" to Him!!