

Caring for One Another
Ruth 4:1-10
August 28, 2011
Sunday School Lesson
Douglas Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
P.O. Box 604 - 969 Smackover Hwy. - El Dorado, AR
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I. Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down. vs.1---This lesson deals with the love that Boaz demonstrates toward Ruth and Naomi. Boaz is symbol of Jesus who loves us and did what needed to be done to redeem us. The term redeem means to buy back. To be a redeemer, there were certain qualifications that had to be met. (1) Redeemer had to make the arrangements for redemption. Boaz makes the necessary steps to redeem Ruth and Naomi. Boaz understands that he has to follow the demands of the law if he is going to redeem this family. In comparison Jesus had to be obedient to the law before he could redeem humanity. When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan he was fulfilling the law. Jesus was examined in every aspects of the law to see if he was obedient to the law.

II. 2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down. Vs. 2---The next qualification of a redeemer is that he has to have witnesses that he has the right to redeem. According to Jewish law, there needed to be two to three witnesses in order that something is true. However, in special cases the law demanded that you had to have ten witnesses; cases like divorce, purchasing land and marriage. When Jesus was here he had witnesses to his person as redeemer. In John 5:16-47 the text deals with different witness of the person of Jesus. These ten men did not determine the outcome but bore witness to the outcome.

III. 3 Then he said to the close relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech. 4 And I thought to inform you, saying, Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you.' "

And he said, "I will redeem it." vs.3,4---The next qualification of redeemer is his relationship to redeem. The law demanded that the nearest kinsman buy the property to keep it in the family. Not just anyone could redeem land in Israel. Land was to stay within the family. By way of application, Jesus wanted humanity to stay in the family of God; however, sin caused them to move into the family of Satan. Humanity would need a human to redeem them. This human would have to be a near kinsman. The Old Testament prophets were sent to bring Israel back to God as their near kinsman. However, Israel didn't listen and the flesh of humanity didn't allow them to be redeemed. Jesus therefore became human so that he would become a near kinsman and would qualify to redeem humanity. Naomi sold or was going to sell her property because she couldn't afford to keep it. She has made it known that the death of her husband and sons have left her a widow indeed. It would now become the responsibility of the near kinsman to keep the land in the family. The next qualification of a redeemer is the willingness to redeem. The nearest kinsman didn't have to buy the land, he could pass that responsibility on to the next in line in the family. Jesus as our kinsman redeemer had a willingness to redeem us. Jesus was not forced to give his life, he lay it down willingly.

IV. 5 Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance." And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it." vs.5---The kinsman redeem was willing to redeem the land when it was just Naomi and the property. However, when he heard that he would have to buy Ruth and raise up seed to her dead husband he withdrew his offer to redeem. Boaz intentionally withheld the information about Ruth as part of the bargain because he didn't want to seem over anxious. The nearest kinsman didn't mind Naomi but couldn't see himself buying this foreign woman and raising up seed to her dead husband and then having to share his property with the offspring children. The near kinsman felt this was too much to ask.

V. 7 Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel. Vs.7--
-This text is added to explain the custom of entering into a contract. There were several kinds of contracts or covenants that could be entered into in

those days. One was the salt covenant where you threw salt over the shoulder. Another was the dividing of animals and walking between the divided pieces and then there was the shoe covenant. This is where an individual would remove their shoe and give it as a sign of covenant. By way of application, this is a picture of the New Covenant of the New Testament that Christ entered into with humanity.

VI. 8 Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself." So he took off his sandal. 9 And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi. 10 Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day." vs.8-10---The next qualification of a redeemer is that one must be able to redeem. When the near kinsman refused to buy, he handed the opportunity to Boaz. Boaz had to have the price to buy the property. Willing was not enough, opportunity was not enough, willingness was not enough, there had to be the ability to redeem. Boaz needed the money to redeem. Jesus had to have the means to redeem humanity. The means that was needed was his life blood. Scripture teach that without the shedding of blood there can be no remission, removal of sins.