

Ruth | Week 5 | February 7-13

Scripture: Ruth 4:1-12

Scripture Questions:

1. Ruth and Naomi are left waiting in Ruth 3, trusting that Boaz “will not rest” until the matter is settled. What do we see Boaz doing to settle the matter in Ruth 4:1-6?
2. The “nearer” redeemer/kinsman happens to show up, how does the “nearer” redeemer respond to Boaz?
3. What might be the significance that the “nearer redeemer” is not mentioned by name in the text?
4. Once again Boaz acts in a worthy manner in Ruth 4:7-10 by doing what? (see also Ruth 3:13) How do his actions differ from the “nearer” redeemer/kinsman?
5. What role to the those gathered around the city gate play in this scene?
6. How do the people and the elders at the gate respond to Boaz’s willing redemption?

Sermon Discussion Questions:

1. The nearer kinsman/redeemer says, “I will redeem” and then says, “I cannot redeem”. How do you make sense of this? What is the difference between the words “will” and “can” and what are the implications of those two words?
2. When it comes to your “willingness” to step up and into the need, what trips you up into “unwillingness” or what propels you forward to “willingness”?
3. What does it mean that Jesus is *your* Redeemer?
4. Redemption provides a way for someone’s name to be perpetuated, maintained, carried-on. What does that mean for Ruth and Naomi? What does it mean and what the implications for those who are redeemed in Christ?
5. What practical ways is God calling you to sacrifice or boldly help redeem people out of brokenness?

6. The book of Ruth is a wonderful story of God's faithfulness. Where have you seen God faithfully at work in your life in the past? Where do you need to trust his faithfulness now?

Giving & Receiving Kindness:

Give focused attention to others by maintaining eye contact. Put your phone away while in the company of others. Choose an entire day, several days, an evening, several hours and put the phone away. This one sounds easy, until we try it. So often we are distracted. We check the time, glance at the television, otherwise look away from the person we're speaking with. Not only can this be inconsiderate, but a subconscious indication that we aren't fully engaged. When someone gives you all their attention, it is a gift. By showing that we're not chained to our device, we show real interest and respect. It's easy to practice with anyone, from the person bagging our groceries to co-workers, to our family and significant others.

When you hear that discouraging voice in your head, ***tell yourself the truth***, truth rooted in Scripture that you are loved, redeemed, and spoken for by the One who gave His life for you. Jesus is a compassionate redeemer. He is slow to anger, gracious and abundant in mercy. Write it on a "truth card" and carry it with you. Take it out. Look at it. Rehearse it. Believe it.