

NAOMI THINKS ABOUT RUTH

Ruth 2:17-23 (Review)

17Ruth gleaned until evening. Then she threshed the barley. It was a lot of barley. 18Naomi saw the barley 19and asked Ruth, “Where did you glean today? Whose field did you glean in?” Ruth answered, “His name is Boaz.” 20“God bless Boaz!” said Naomi. “God is still kind to us – and to our dead husbands.” Then Naomi said, “Boaz is our close relative – he is one of our redeemers – he is a redeemer for our family.” 21Then Ruth said to Naomi: “Boaz told me, ‘Stay with my workers until all my grain is harvested.’” 23So Ruth gleaned in Boaz’s fields until the barley harvest and wheat harvest were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law Naomi.

WHAT IS A REDEEMER?

For a Family Heir

Deuteronomy 25:5-10

5[God’s Law says:] There are two brothers. And their families are living together. *Brother A* dies – but he has no son – no heir. His wife is a widow – what should she do? *Brother B* must marry the widow. This is the brother-in-law’s duty.

6When *Brother B* and the widow have a son, their first son is *Brother A*’s heir. The first son will take *Brother A*’s name. Then *Brother A*’s name will continue in Israel.

7But, maybe *Brother B* will say, “I don’t want to marry the widow – I will not marry my brother’s widow.” Then the widow will go to the leaders at the town gate. 8The leaders will call *Brother B* to the town gate – and the leaders will talk to *Brother B*. 9But if *Brother B* still says, “I will not marry her,” the widow will take off *Brother B*’s sandal. Then she will spit in *Brother B*’s face. The widow will say, “In Israel, we take off your sandal, and we spit in your face – because you will not marry me – and you will not give your brother an heir.” 10So, *Brother B*’s family’s will always be called: *No-Sandal Family*.

For Family Land

Leviticus 25:1, 23-27

1God said to Israel, 23“All the land in Israel is my land – it is God’s land. You people in Israel are foreigners on my land – you are my tenants. So you cannot sell your land permanently – you can only sell your land temporarily - it is not your land to sell permanently.

24So, in Israel land can be redeemed – when you sell your land, you can redeem it – you can buy it back.

25Person X is an Israelite. He becomes poor. So *Person X* sells his land to someone. But *Person X* has a close relative – the relative is *Person Y*. *Person Y* must buy back the land – *Person Y* must redeem the land for *Person X*. 27Then *Person X* can have his own land again.

WHAT NAOMI DOES FOR RUTH

Ruth 3:1-18

1One day Naomi said to her daughter-in-law Ruth, “I will find a husband for you. I will find someone to take care of you. I will find a home for you.”

2Then Naomi said to Ruth, “Boaz is one of our relatives. The harvest is finished. Tonight Boaz will go to the threshing floor – he will winnow the grain. 3Ruth, take a bath – and put on perfume, and put on your best clothes.

“You go to the threshing floor – but don’t let Boaz see you. Boaz will eat and drink (and celebrate the harvest). 4Then he will lie down and sleep by the grain pile. When Boaz is sleeping, you go and uncover his feet – and you lie down by Boaz’s feet. Then Boaz will tell you what you should do.”

5Ruth answered, “I will do what you say.” 6So Ruth went to the threshing floor. 7Boaz finished eating and drinking and was happy. Then he lay down by the grain pile (maybe to protect the grain from robbers) – and Boaz went to sleep. Ruth went to Boaz and quietly uncovered his feet. Then she lay down by his feet.

8In the middle of the night something scared Boaz and he woke up. So he turned – and a woman was lying by his feet! 9“Who are you?” Boaz asked. Ruth answered, “I am your servant Ruth. Put your wing over me – put the corner of your robe over me. You are our redeemer.”

10Boaz said, “God bless you, my daughter. You are very kind – you did not look for a young man – but you are asking me (to marry you). 11My daughter, do not be afraid – I will do what you ask: (I will marry you). Everyone in Bethlehem knows that you are an excellent, wonderful woman.”

12Then Boaz said to Ruth, “It is true: I am a close relative. But you have another relative – he is closer than I am. 13In the morning I will ask him. If he wants to redeem you, he can redeem you. But, if he does not want to redeem you, I will redeem you. I promise God, I will do it.”

Boaz said, “Lie here until morning.” 14So Ruth lay at Boaz’s feet until morning. But she got up very early – it was too dark to see people clearly. Boaz said to Ruth, “No one should see you at the threshing floor.” 15Then Boaz gave Ruth barley – he filled her shawl with barley.

16Ruth went back to her mother-in-law Naomi. Naomi asked, “How did it go, my daughter?” Then Ruth told Naomi everything that Boaz had done for her. 17And Ruth said, “Boaz gave me this barley. Boaz said to me, ‘Don’t go back to your mother-in-law with no gift.’”

18Then Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter – wait till you find out what will happen. Because Boaz will not rest today – he will not rest till our redeemer is decided.”

TODAY, WHO IS OUR REDEEMER? WHO WANTS TO BE OUR REDEEMER?

Ephesians 2:3-13 • Romans 5:1, 10 • 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 • Matthew 20:28 • Ephesians 1:7 •

Eph 2:5 Before we believed in Jesus, we were all spiritually dead in our sins. 2:3 We were all targets of God's anger. 2:12-13 And Gentiles were foreigners. Rom. 5:10 We all were God's enemies. Then Jesus died on the cross for us – and Jesus brought us back to God – so our relationship to God became good again. 5:1 Now, because we believe in Jesus, we have peace with God.

1 Cor 6:19 Now, we do not belong to ourselves – we belong to God – 6:20 because Jesus paid a price for us. Matt. 20:28 Jesus gave his life to redeem many people – Eph 1:7 we are redeemed by Jesus' blood.

SO WHAT IS OUR NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THE FATHER?

Ephesians 1:5, 7 • Galatians 4:6-7 • 2 Corinthians 11:2 • Ephesians 5:25-32

#1.

Eph 1:7 Because Jesus redeemed us, 1:5 God adopted us as his sons.

Gal 4:6 We are God's sons – so God put the Spirit of his Son [Jesus] into our hearts. And Jesus' Spirit in our hearts calls to God, "Papa! Father!"

4:7 You are a son – so you are God's heir – and you will inherit God's kingdom.

#2.

2 Cor 11:2 You are for one husband, Christ – you will be a pure virgin [bride] for Christ.

Eph 5:28 A husband must love his wife – he must love her like he loves himself. And a wife must respect her husband. 25 This is how Christ loved the Church [his bride]. Christ loved the Church, so he died for her – he gave himself for her. 26 Why did Christ give himself for the Church? 27 Because Christ wants to have an amazing, wonderful Church – [an amazing, wonderful bride]. He wants her to be pure – he wants her to have no sin – he wants her to have no stain or wrinkle. 29 So Christ feeds and cares for her. 32 This relationship is an amazing mystery – the relationship of Christ and [his bride] the Church is an amazing mystery!

CONTENT QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WHAT IS A REDEEMER?

- If *Brother A* dies, what must *Brother B* do? (Deuteronomy 25:5)
- Why must *Brother B* do this? (verse 6)

Who is the redeemer?

- Who owns the land of Israel? Who does the land belong to? (Leviticus 25:23)
- So, what can *Person X* do when he sells his land? (verse 24)
- If *Person X* can't buy back (redeem) his land – if he is poor – what happens? (verse 25)
- Who is the redeemer for *Person X*? (verse 25)

So, what is the purpose of a redeemer?

Is it easy to be a redeemer?

What does it cost to be a redeemer?

WHAT NAOMI DOES FOR RUTH?

- What did Naomi decide to do for Ruth? (Ruth 3:1)

Do you think that Naomi has changed?

About how long has Naomi been back in Bethlehem? (Ruth 2:23)

Why do you think she has changed?

Does it take time to recover from great sadness?

- Who did Naomi choose for Ruth? (Ruth 3:2)

What do you think about this choice? Why?

- What did Naomi tell Ruth to do? (verses 3-4)
- Did Ruth do what Naomi told her to do? (verses 5-7)

How would you feel in this situation (if you were Ruth)?

- What happened in the middle of the night? (verse 8)
- What did Ruth mean:
 “Put your wing over me – put the corner of your robe over me. You are our redeemer”?
 (verse 9)

How do mother birds protect their babies?

- Why did Boaz seem surprised? (verse 10)

About how old do you think Boaz was?

- How did Ruth feel? (verse 11)

Why do you think she felt afraid?

- What did Boaz promise Ruth? (verse 11)

Why do you think he promised this? (verse 11)

What did Boaz like best about Ruth? (verse 11)

- But what was the problem? (verse 12)
- So, what two things did Boaz promise to do? (verse 13)
- Did Boaz care about Ruth's reputation? (verse 14)
- What extra, kind thing did Boaz do for Ruth and Naomi? (verses 15, 17)
- How soon did Naomi think that Boaz would decide their redeemer? (verse 18)

TODAY, WHO IS OUR REDEEMER?

- What is our situation before we believe in Jesus? (Ephesians 2:3-13 • Romans 5:10)
What relationship do we have with God?
- Then what did Jesus do for us? (Romans 5:10)
- Now, what kind of relationship can we have with God? (Roman 5:1, 10)
- What must we do to have peace with God? (Romans 5:1)
- (After we believe in Jesus,) who do we belong to? (1 Corinthians 6:19)
- Why do we belong to God? (1 Corinthians 6:20 • Matthew 20:28 • Ephesians 1:7)
- What is our new relationship with God? (Ephesians 1:5)
 - What 2 ways are we like God's sons? (Galatians 4:6-7)
- What other amazing relationship do we have with Christ? (Ephesians 5:25-32)

How is our relationship to Christ like Ruth's relationship to Boaz?

How close is our relationship to Christ and the Heavenly Father?