

~ **Our Spiritual Safari** expedition through the entire Word of God finds ourselves on the threshing floor of Boaz in this report from the beautiful little book of Ruth. We spent a lot of time in our previous report learning about a strange amendment to the Mosaic System of Levitical Law known as Goel – or – the law of the kinsman redeemer. We learned how it required Ruth be the one to initiate the proposition to Boaz if she wanted his redemption. Although it's obvious Boaz has fallen in love with her, it is still an awkward position for both of them; particularly with Ruth being from Moab, which complicated the situation dramatically.

During the time Boaz and Ruth were getting to know each other, Boaz apparently discovered there was another kinsman closer to the decedent husband of Ruth than Boaz was. If Boaz had even mentioned he were a potential kinsman redeemer, he would have opened himself up to all sorts of trickery by this strange maiden from Moab; and, friends, Boaz just wasn't going to do that – I assure you. Unless and until Ruth gives some indication of making the claim of redemption, Boaz won't even be acknowledging that dynamic. Candidly, without the claim of redemption, Ruth's prospects for any type of hopeful life ends right here.

Well, the threshing floor was a very public place in that day. All of the families that had grain to thresh would have used the floor; and many would have their entire crops laid out there at the same time. Of course, when they ceased working at night, the genuine children of the True and Living God would take time for a feast of thanksgiving to Jehovah. Many of the nature Psalms are directly connected with this feast. All of the Psalms in that collection were sung out in the field while working and harvesting. See, these people brought God into their business lives and every relationship of life. So, on the threshing floor, there is a time of great thanksgiving and celebration for all the wonderful things God had done in bringing provision and prosperity....

1 Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?

2 And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor.

3 Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking.

4 And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do.

~ We concluded our previous report with Naomi beginning to instruct Ruth in the proper procedure for making a claim of redemption under the Mosaic Law's ordinances. In that, we find the spiritual steps we are to take when we come to the Lord Jesus Christ for our redemption. First, we are to wash ourselves – and that means being washed in the Word of God, friends! That's the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that must cleanse us. The Word of God is the ONLY cleansing and sanctifying power in existence, too, by the way. That's the reason I teach like I do – taking the entire Word to the entire world in the sound doctrine of the apostles. God tells me this touches the hearts and lives of the unsaved and reveals to them they need cleansing. Jesus said, "be ye clean by the WORD I have spoken unto you."

Second, we are to anoint ourselves. Many are so hopelessly confused about "anointing" that it is simply shameful for them to speak of it. The talk I hear about anointing on this forum on which I teach is always one of two things: one, it ministers to one's abject spiritual pride as they claim to be "anointed" - or two, someone praises another for being so highly "anointed" - which usurps the glory of God. I don't hear "anointing" used in any other connection, quite frankly. We are instructed to get out the oil God gave us and use it lavishly. Putting on the raiment and going to the threshing floor speaks of being clothed with the robe of righteousness and

going to the place where the work is being done for the cause of Christ. That combination of spiritual dress is where we discover "anointing." Honestly, because I always am honest with you dear readers, there isn't much anointing going on around this forum. Let's try it this way: have you let God know you claim His Son as your Kinsman Redeemer? Well, that's what we are instructed to do; and that's what God is talking about in this section of Scripture.

Christ died for our sins. Most of us know that. We can talk about Christ's seven last words from the cross all day long, but He wants a word from you, too. Boaz's hands are tied regarding making a move concerning Ruth; and he isn't about to instruct her on what to do anyways. Thank God Naomi is there to teach Ruth what to do and how to do it. God wants to hear you claim Christ and God wants to hear you say you trust Him. If you do TRULY trust Christ, then why don't you tell Him that in your prayers? If you HONESTLY love the Lord Jesus Christ, then when is the last time you told Him? If you GENUINELY desire to serve God, why haven't you told Him to affect your servitude? So many so-called Christians are so far removed from Christ today that they have no idea what a relationship with Him might mean. Christ can be as close as breathing right now – but you will HAVE to let Him know you want Him.

Most people say they believe in the accounts of Noah and Jonah. They say they believe the Lord Jesus died on the cross for their sins, too. The problem is: that's usually "the end" of what they know about what they believe! Tragically, most believe they don't need to know anything else. Well, there happens to be a LONG ways between believing Bible facts and accepting Christ as our Savior and developing a personal relationship with Him in Bible study. Without prayer, confession and a commitment to maintaining a personal relationship with the Lord then, may I say? – I don't know if you're saved – the Bible says you are – BUT – you will NEVER come into the place of full blessing, you will never realize the direct will of God for your life, I will always doubt you are saved, and your witness will become null and void, which means you will ultimately have no reward in Heaven. Most people want these things, but my opinion is very few ever come to God His way. Very few people tell God regularly they trust Him,

love Him and want to serve Him; and that is all the direct result of neglecting to study the Bible. Oh, my friends, how critical this is. Naomi told Ruth to let Boaz know her intentions....

5 And she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do.

6 And she went down unto the floor, and did according to all that her mother in law bade her.

7 And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down.

8 And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet.

9 And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.

~ The claim of Ruth on Boaz as her kinsman redeemer is one of the loveliest pictures we are going to consider in the entire Word of God. This is REAL romance. We see an outstanding man of valor fall in love with a beautiful but helpless and poverty-stricken woman. Ruth isn't hauling Boaz into court to make her claim, although she could have rightfully done it that way. The wise and discerning Naomi has arranged things this way because this is the best way – the romantic way. Don't make your relationship with Christ a legalistic and cold-blooded business contract. Ruth very quietly and calmly claimed Boaz in an almost seductive way. I think this made Boaz even MORE happy with Ruth....

10 And he said, blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich.

~ Well, Boaz sounds like an old-fashioned shouting Methodist preacher as he says, “blessed be thou of the Lord!” He's been waiting to hear these words from Ruth, and this makes him very happy. This has all transpired in a most unexpected way. The manner Ruth appeared on the scene was miraculous to Boaz because he never dreamed there was such a vision of loveliness in the world. Of all the places for this to transpire, true love sprang up in his field one random day.

Now, the town gossips acknowledged the striking beauty of Ruth simply because there was no denying it; but, they added Boaz should be wary of that trap because Ruth would soon be chasing after every man that owned a field. After all, Ruth was a Moabitess – and that’s what Moabite women did, according to Jewish gossip. Remember, Naomi had told Ruth to expect this behavior and to expect being ostracized and shut out; and that no man in Israel would be interested in her. Ruth accepted that at face value a long time ago. Ruth hadn’t even considered making a move on anyone in Israel; indeed, she didn’t even KNOW about the law of the kinsman redeemer before Naomi instructed her on it. Boaz was a little smarter than the gossips, though - and he saw right through their jealousy! He plays all of this down and is super cool....

11 And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.

12 And now it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I.

13 Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, as the LORD liveth: lie down until the morning.

14 And she lay at his feet until the morning: and she rose up before one could know another. And he said; Let it not be known that a woman came into the floor.

15 Also he said, Bring the veil that thou hast upon thee, and hold it. And when she held it, he measured six measures of barley, and laid it on her: and she went into the city.

16 And when she came to her mother in law, she said, Who art thou, my daughter? And she told her all that the man had done to her.

17 And she said, These six measures of barley gave he me; for he said to me, Go not empty unto thy mother in law.

18 Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day.

~ So, we conclude this report with Ruth having claimed Boaz as her kinsman redeemer. There's nothing left for Ruth to do now except rest. At this point, the obligations shift, and the details become the responsibility of Boaz to execute. Whatever happens will be done by him. We can rest in our redemption after we take the necessary steps to claim the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ already paid the price on the cross for us to enter into His rest. Now, we must trust Christ with our redemption. Again, I ask, have you told Jesus you love Him and that you claim Him? Have you genuinely accepted and received Him as your Savior? Have you REALLY entered into His rest? ~

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