



SERIES: Redeeming Love – Ruth

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Tuesday, June 27, 2023

Scripture: Ruth 4:6-10

TITLE: Redeeming Love

What's the biggest purchase you've ever made? What decision carried the greatest level of consequences? For the purchase, it is probably your home or maybe a business. Regarding a decision, it could be the decision to marry, change jobs, have kids, adopt kids, or remarry. The possibilities are seemingly endless.

Well, in today's text, we will continue to see how the story of Ruth unfolds. Will Ruth marry Mr. So-and-so, or will it be Boaz? What is the real cost of this decision? Let's find out in Ruth 4:6-10.

Then the redeemer said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it." Now, this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. So when the redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself," he drew off his sandal. Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and to Mahlon. Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day."

If you remember in verses 1-5, Boaz goes to the city gate where the elders are. They will hear the court cases of the day. Boaz waits for this first-in-line redeemer. He shows up as "of whom Boaz had spoken." Boaz asks this man if he'll redeem the land. The man says, "Yes, I will." But then Boaz gives him the full asking price. It's not just the land, but it's also taking responsibility for Naomi and marrying Ruth to carry on Elimelech's lineage.

Here in verse 6, the man counts the cost and turns down the offer. Boaz can now redeem the land and redeem the family. Naomi's emptiness will be made full. Ruth's faithfulness will be rewarded.

This agreement is signified by an Israelite custom: removing and exchanging a sandal. This was to symbolize the walking of the ground you now own.

Boaz then turns to the elders and all who are watching. He declares, today, you are witnesses. I will redeem the land of Elimelech. I will restore the heart of Naomi. I will redeem the line of Elimelech through Ruth. Today is the day that redeeming love is realized.

Friend, this is the story of redeeming love. It's Ruth and Boaz' story. But it's also our story. We were empty and broken like Naomi. Life was hard and full of disappointment. But God was watching and orchestrating the whole time to redeem her and her family.

We, too, come into this world broken and in need of a redeemer. Jesus Christ is our redeemer. So Boaz is a type of Christ. He was a picture of the love and sacrifice we would need and have available.

The unnamed man counted the cost and could not afford it. The cost was too high for him. The same is true for us and our salvation. We cannot pay for our sin debt. But God can. So He sent his son Jesus as our Redeemer.

Today, thank God for His goodness and faithfulness to us. As we continually struggle in our walk with Him, He is faithfully working all things for good to those who love Him.