

Ruth 4

Buy It For Yourself

Intro/Recap

- When we come to the Bible it should be to see Jesus.
- We're seeing a parable of sorts, a picture of Jesus redeeming the Church, illustrated in this man Boaz and converted foreigner, Ruth
- God's next chapter in the story of redemption.
Setting in order the line of The King before the time of the kings
- God is making a point to go out of the way to show the redemption of a gentile and her part in the lineage of David, the throne and ultimately Jesus
- Ruth - David's great grandmother, Rahab was Boaz's mom
- Ruth 40ish, Boaz 80ish (Midrash not proof, but verse & context evidence)
- **Goel - Kinsman redeemer**
 - *The kinsman-redeemer was responsible to **buy a fellow Israelite out of slavery** (Leviticus 25:48).*
 - *He was responsible to be the **"avenger of blood"** to make sure the murderer of a family member answered to the crime (Numbers 35:19).*
 - *He was responsible to buy **back family land that had been forfeited** (Leviticus 25:25).*
 - *He was responsible to **carry on the family name** by marrying a childless widow (Deuteronomy 25:5-10).*
- Naomi tells Ruth to go ask Boaz. She does. He says he will, but **there's one who's closer he needs to ask first**
- **Boaz is honorable.** Does the right thing And the Lord is using him in ways he could never imagine...to bring about the Messiah.

Start off today with reading of two parables

(*earthly stories with heavenly meanings*):

Matthew 13:44 &

Matthew 13:45-46

[Pray]

Honestly going into this section I wasn't sure where it'd go or what I'd even get out of it...but as I prayed and read and studied this week...I really enjoyed it and got a lot out of it personally. God is good.

4:1-4

Boaz - “fleetness” - quality of being speedy

He wasted no time in doing the right thing.

The importance of doing the right thing, right away.

(Parable of two sons, Matthew 21:28-32)

James 4:17

Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

Interesting side note - two pillars in Solomon’s temple, Boaz and Jachin

Boaz - In Him is strength

Jachin - He will establish

Went to the gate, sat down there

Days before cell phones, texting, telegraph, pony express

You just waited

Going to the mall/food court in high school - you just trusted they’d be there

Importance of the city gates

- Business
- Protection/Security
- Meeting place
- Politics

Proverbs 31:23, (same chapter as “the virtuous wife”)

Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land.

Doesn’t have to be an elder, but known by the elders. Involved in the community, involved in important decisions for the region.

***Politics isn’t our most important call as believers**, may not even be top 5, but it is important, and especially in our country with the rights given by God and secured by the constitution, it is our godly responsibility to not ignore the issues of our day and be “good citizens.”*

Pastors I’ve known and served with or listen to - **volunteer firefighters, chaplains**, involved with politics, known by businessmen, no stranger to the town, getting to know folks back East, in the Bitterroot, feels good to be in the know, have a finger on the pulse or someone to text to know what’s going on.

Pastor Tony in Woodstock NY - Yeshua Festival - God’s love is free, for you, forever

Town officials impressed, wanted to have it again, supported it

This was Boaz. He was an honorable man. Someone you'd want to be in the gates. Someone you'd want to elect, to know, to trust with matters.

The closer relative comes by, Boaz invites him to sit down

He also gets witnesses - other elders

DGC - says this complete surprise was a tactical advantage

I want to read this part of the commentary because it lays some good groundwork for a point I planned on making before reading this commentary...

Literally, in the ancient Hebrew, when Boaz greeted the nearer kinsman he called him "Mr. So-and-so." The writer of Ruth never identified the name of the nearer kinsman because he was not worthy of the honor. He declined to fulfill his obligations as the nearer kinsman to Ruth.

1. **It's one thing to never be talked about in the Bible.**
2. **It's one thing to be named in the Bible for doing good.**
3. **It's one thing to be named in the Bible for doing evil.**
4. **It's another thing altogether to be talked about in the Bible but your name isn't even worth mentioning.**

We also don't need to know his name because it doesn't affect the history.

The value of name meanings, The importance of genealogies and families I think is largely lost on our modern, western, selfish culture.

Kind of heartbreaking to think about this guy.

Boaz lays out the case:

- **Naomi has returned, the land was sold (brother Elimelech)**
- **"I thought to inform you"** doing the honorable thing by telling him, but he's not telling him how much skin he has in the game - good business.
Don't go to the salesmen and tell them how much you have in your wallet
- **Here's your chance to redeem it. I'm ready to as I'm next, but it's up to you.**

Again, is this not like the Lord? Always giving us chances, golden opportunities?

Sometimes we're looking for them? Other times we're completely blindsided - maybe we have been praying about something and it falls into our lap and other times we've been spiritually distracted and miss the opportunity or worse, pass it up?

- Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work. - Thomas A. Edison

- Success is where preparation and opportunity meet. - Bobby Unser
- Nothing is more expensive than a missed opportunity. - H. Jackson Brown, Jr.
- Proper Planning and Preparation Prevent Poor Performance (Army)

10 Elders, witnesses, ratifying the terms, that everything was above board

I can't get over this line "and I thought to tell you"

I just read it as "oh, by the way...there's this land deal"

Boaz really trying not to grin about getting married

The closer relative says, "Yeah, sure, I'll buy the land!"

Sweet, just walking in to town, been wanting to expand my plot, and the deal finds me!

Abraham Sarah death, sons of heath, Mamre 400 shekels "Between friends"

Middle eastern dealing, haggling

Magical mystery dollar (story)

:5-6

Boaz continues...this is more than a real estate opportunity

By the way...you gotta get married, too...and have another son

(what if a son doesn't come first?)

Reminds him of the responsibility to carry on their brother's name

Not just immediate brother...but his descendants

The generational duty. Fathers, Sons, Grandsons, Great Grandsons...

Nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles. Family is important.

To quote F&F and the memes "family"

This would be a lot to take on. Putting him on the spot. Land is one thing...

Now that it's more than a prime property deal...

The other man puts on the brakes, hard.

"Lest I ruin my own inheritance"

- Could he even afford it financially? Was that just an excuse now, he could have before.
- Would it cause problems with his sons and passing it on?
- Not to mention marrying another wife. One is enough! Never goes well for those with more than one.

Corban

[Mark 7:5-13 NKJV] Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?" He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with [their] lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching [as] doctrines the commandments of men.' "For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men--the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." He said to them, "[All too] well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. "For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.' "But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, 'Whatever profit you might have received from me [is] Corban'--' (that is, a gift [to God]), 'then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, 'making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do."

Your family needs something, but you say it's earmarked for God. Sorry. God would rather you care for them in a time of need than flash that same money as you put it into the plate.

Spending the money to benefit himself with more land was no problem. But doing the right thing, the honorable thing, with added responsibility to himself...that was the problem.

He might have had the means, but he didn't have the character.

Rich young ruler

[Mark 10:17-22 NKJV] Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one [is] good but One, [that is], God. "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' " And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth." Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

You redeem it Boaz. Buy it for yourself.

Kind of feel a bit of shame here covered by pride in front of Boaz and the Elders.

Kind of sense disappointment in not getting the land.

Kind of sense he's going away sorrowful because his desires weren't met.

A good litmus test for our own maturity or temperature with what the Lord is doing in us..or desiring to do through us...

:7-8

Swapping of Sandals

Commentary notes: Deuteronomy 25:5-10 describes the ceremony conducted when a kinsman declined his responsibility. The one declining removed a sandal and the woman he declined to honor spat in his face.

Ruth could have done this to Boaz if he said no. But her posture (last chapter) was one that would never have done that to him, even if he deserved it.

Chivalry, feminism, our "rights" -

I think scripture would have us check a lot of our personal rights at the door when it comes to "loving one another"

*To turn the other cheek, to remain silent. "The glory of kings is to pass over a transgression"
Real power in restraint, using it when necessary.*

LOA family & ministry

**I think in some sense, there's this stretch of a connotation we could make in this deal...
Of going with that person by giving them your sandal.**

**He's reminded that they went in your place (the guy having the sandal of Boaz)
And Boaz reminded that he's stepped into the role of the other guy's responsibility**

If the shoe fits, wear it

Maybe the shoe doesn't fit, you wear it anyway as an act of righteousness.

Definitely not as glamorous as a glass slipper

Proverbs 23:10-11

Do not remove the ancient landmark, Nor enter the fields of the fatherless; For their Redeemer is mighty; He will plead their cause against you.

God's perfect will and permissible will

He would have had a part of the kingly line

"Door in heaven" Enter in / I chose you

God's will and our obedience go hand in hand

We can only really come to know the scriptures, and what they mean, when we obey them.

The desires of our hearts

Psalm 37:4

Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Do you want to serve the Lord? Delight yourself in Him.

Do you want to have the best life? The “abundant” life? Delight yourself in Him.

He will bring you opportunity, you will be ready to say yes, and you will be blessed

:9-12

“I have bought all that was Elimelech’s, Chilion’s and Mahlon’s” from the hand of Naomi

His possessions increased

But their honor and name lived on

That although Ruth initiated the transaction with him, it really tied back to Naomi

I really like considering the depth of their family bonds here

Growing up vs. now with a large family

Friends are important, but family is forever

The family of God - experiencing that early on in my walk, there was a real blood bond that sometimes was even closer than family

Moreover - Ruth

That for Boaz, this was the greater kindness

I believe for Boaz this was what he was most excited about. **What he was most blessed by.**

It wasn’t just business. It wasn’t just duty. It was love.

[John 15:15-17 NKJV] "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and [that] your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. "These things I command you, that you love one another.

They are witnesses. Everyone is in agreement and on board.

When they blessed him and Ruth, little did they know the depth of what they were saying.

She would indeed be like Rachel, Leah - the mothers of the 12 tribes of Israel

Perez - (commentary) carried away a birthright and had a blessed posterity, ancestor of Bethlehemites and from the Tribe of Judah

All of these point to the Messiah. Born in Bethlehem. Of the Tribe of Judah. The King of Israel.

Their "little lives" were a big part of God's redeeming plan.

They had no idea who would come from their descendants. David. Jesus.

They had no idea that their story would get a whole book in the Bible.

Or be a pillar in Solomon’s temple.

God sees the end from the beginning and beginning from the end.

God doesn't want to "use" you. He wants to bless you.

Obedience is not about adherence to the law to somehow please God.

It's about aligning yourself with God's best for you. Putting yourself in the places, situations and life that God wants for you. To bless you.

When I ask my kids to do something, its for their good. To teach them responsibility. Or the right way to go or to make their lives easier. But mainly I want them to do things with me and I want to do things with them. Not for the doing, but for the time together.

You really only get one life with so few paths and making the right decision, especially on the most important decisions is paramount.

So "Stay under the spout where the glory comes out"

Cost of salvation

[1 Corinthians 6:20 NKJV] For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

[2 Corinthians 6:2 NKJV] For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now [is] the accepted time; behold, now [is] the day of salvation.

God has bought you back. Redeemed you. What will you do with this freedom and opportunity?