



**=THE BOOK OF RUTH=**

Lesson 5

**Ruth Is Redeemed**

**INTRODUCTION:** Teacher, review the story of Ruth so that the pupils have it well memorized. The lesson today has to do with Boaz, the near kinsman, redeeming Ruth to himself. Last Sunday's lesson laid the foundation for this.

- I. **THERE WAS A KINSMAN NEARER THAN BOAZ.** Notice Ruth 3:12. Boaz wanted to redeem Ruth, but another kinsman who was nearer had the first chance. This kinsman represents the law. Let us see what success this kinsman had in redeeming Ruth.
- II. **BOAZ WAS GOING TO REDEEM HER, AND HE WOULD NOT REST UNTIL HE FINISHED THAT REDEMPTION.** See Ruth 3:18. Jesus never rested until He finished our redemption. You will notice that after He had risen to be with the Father, He sat down on the right hand of the Father. The work is now finished; we are redeemed. He did not rest until He had redeemed us. Boaz would not rest until he had redeemed Ruth.
- III. **BOAZ COULD NOT REDEEM RUTH BY HIMSELF.** In Ruth 4:1-6, notice especially these words in verse 6: "I cannot redeem it for myself." The law never can redeem. All the law can do is show us our need of redemption, but it cannot redeem us nor save us.

The custom was for the nearest kinsman to have the first choice at redemption. Boaz took ten men of the elders of the city and had them as witnesses to the fact that the nearer kinsman could not redeem Ruth. These ten witnesses represent the ten commandments. The law cannot redeem us; the ten commandments are our witnesses. None of us can live without breaking the ten commandments. Every time the law would say to us that it could redeem us and we say that we can be redeemed by the law, one of the commandments jumps up and says, "You broke me." That means that the law cannot redeem. Explain to the class that the commandments were made to be broken. This is not to say that we should not try to keep them. The truth of the matter is, we should try to keep them. The fact that we cannot, however, shows us our need of Christ. The Bible likens the law to a mirror that shows us our condition. We look at ourselves in the light of the law, realizing that we cannot keep the law, and we find our condition. Just as a mirror drives us to cleansing, even so the law drives us to Christ, Who can cleanse us from our sins.

The Bible also likens the law to a plumb line. A plumb line is a string or rope with a heavy object on the end hung down beside a building to reveal the crookedness of the building. Now, the plumb line does not straighten the building; the plumb line only reveals that the building needs straightening. The law does not straighten us; it reveals our crookedness so that we will come to Christ. Hence, the nearer kinsman could not redeem Ruth, and these ten witnesses attested to the fact.

- IV. **THE KINSMAN GAVE BOAZ HIS SHOE.** This was assurance that he could not redeem Ruth. See Ruth 4:7, 8. The giving of the shoe was like the writing of a signature or the giving of an earnest. It was the official settling of an act. Hence, the man gave Boaz his shoe.
- V. **PEOPLE WERE TOLD.** This matter was not a secret. Boaz wanted to redeem Ruth, and Ruth wanted to be redeemed by Boaz. Hence, notice the number of times the word "witness" is mentioned. In verse 9, "Ye are witnesses..."; in verse 10, "...ye are witnesses this day"; in verse 11, "...We are witnesses." God wants us to let people know that we have been redeemed. Secret discipleship is not pleasing to God. We are to tell people and show people and let them know that we have been redeemed.
- VI. **BOAZ PAID THE PRICE.** Notice the words in Ruth 4:10, "have I purchased to be my wife." This is a type of Jesus paying the price for us. This is the purpose of Calvary. Jesus paid the penalty for our sins. He redeemed us

by His precious blood. The word “redeemed” means “to buy back.” Man was once close to God, in perfect fellowship in the Garden of Eden. Man fell from that estate, and God has had to buy him back.

The following illustration is so apt. A little boy had a boat. He built it himself. He labored hard to build it and paint it. He was so proud of his boat. One day while he was playing with his boat at the beach, the boat went out too far. No matter how hard he tried, the little boy could not reach his boat, and the boat went out to sea. Some fishermen found the boat. They took it to a toy store and sold it to the proprietor. One day while the little boy was walking down the street, he stopped at the window of the toy shop. He saw his boat. He went into the toy shop and told the proprietor that it was his boat; he had made it himself. The proprietor would not believe it, of course. He told the boy he would have to pay the price, which was two dollars. The boy pleaded for his boat, but the proprietor would not believe his story. The boy went out and worked, earned two dollars, came back and bought the boat. As the boy walked out the door, he hugged the boat to himself and said, “Now you are twice mine, little boat. I made you, and I bought you.” This is a beautiful picture of what Christ has done for us. He made us, and He bought us. He redeemed us.

VII. **BOAZ AND RUTH WERE MARRIED.** Notice Ruth 4:13. Here is a picture of the time when we shall see Christ. This will take place at the Rapture, when we shall become one with Him; we shall be His bride, and we shall be with Him. Thank God for this hope!