



TODAY'S MESSAGE:

Jesus in the Old Testament: Redemption

Logan Holloman | Next Gen Pastor | August 11, 2024



Judges 21:15 (NIV)

In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit

- Setting for story; bad times and famine
- 1st chapter of Ruth within first 5 verses all the men in the family die, now widows without power, influence, or land

Ruth 1:16-18 (NIV)

But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

Ruth 2:11-12 (NIV)

Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."

Ruth 2:20 (NIV)

"The Lord bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead." She added, "That man is our close relative; he is one of our guardian-redeemers."

- Redeemer is legal term for one who has the obligation to redeem a relative in serious difficulty
- This is a huge sacrifice; not savvy business move
- Naomi would have to be saved or become a slave

Ruth 3:1-6 (NIV)

One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for. Now Boaz, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do." "I will do whatever you say," Ruth answered. So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do.

"If you read the Bible if you've got the courage to really open it up for yourself and take in the story as it's written you're going to find some parts that you like and you're going to find a few parts that make you confused or sad or angry or all of the above. The biblical story is not a sanitized fairy tale nor is it trying to sell you something, it is unflinchingly honest. The story of the redeeming God set right in the thick of the tragedy of chaos and you got both elements. So make of it what you want but do not call the Bible dishonest because it's certainly not that. So the question we've got to ask ourselves is then what do I do with the parts of the Bible that I don't like? What am I supposed to do with the inevitable biblical moment that leaves me grimacing looking away or at the very least scratching my head? And it's not me who's posing that question to you, it's the author of Ruth."

– Tyler Staton

Ruth 3:7-14 (NIV)

When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. In the middle of the night something startled the man; he turned—and there was a woman lying at his feet!

"Who are you?" he asked. "I am your servant Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family."

"The Lord bless you, my daughter," he replied. "This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character. Although it is true that I am a guardian-redeemer of our family, there is another who is more closely related than I. Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to do his duty as your guardian-redeemer, good; let him redeem you. But if he is not willing, as surely as the Lord lives I will do it. Lie here until morning." So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, "No one must know that a woman came to the threshing floor."

Matthew 1:24-25 (NIV)

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Romans 6:17-18 (NIV)

But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

God is still redeeming.**Will I notice it?****Will I participate in it?****Reflection Questions:**

- 1) What comes to mind when you hear redemption? Any examples whether through personal experience or from culture? (movies, literature, etc)
- 2) Where in your life are you waiting for redemption? (family, marriage, job, healing, future/past, etc?)
- 3) Redeemed people are often admired but often only after trials over long periods of time. How are you waiting?
- 4) Ruth's posture of self-sacrifice is evident throughout the four chapters. In doing so she hands over control to allow God to redeem her and her family. What is the posture you might have to take to allow God to redeem what you might be trying to control?

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