

August 30, 2026 Redemption Lesson 13 Ruth 3:8-13, 4:13-17

Intro: Have you ever been in a situation where you had to relocate to parts unknown? Crises challenge our faith to the point that we may wonder if God is in control or cares about our situation. We may be at a crossroad, but God knows which way we may choose and will use it for His purposes. Perhaps Naomi and her family could have stayed in Bethlehem and made it through the famine without having to move to Moab. Moab was a pagan Canaanite city, and in the past was an enemy of Judea. The reason for the decision to move to Moab will remain unknown. God uses even our choices. **Romans 8:28** *“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”* We are called according to God’s purpose! That is exciting to me! Legally, when Naomi’s family moved away and was gone for over a decade, the Jewish custom of a kinsman-redeemer would not apply. However, Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem. She didn’t really have other options for survival. Ruth, a Moabite and daughter-in-law, was committed to follow Naomi to Bethlehem. When Naomi returned to Bethlehem with Ruth, there was no “welcome back home” event that was recorded. Naomi knew her late husband, Elimelech, had relatives there who gave Ruth permission to glean in a particular field belonging to a relative named Boaz. Ruth gleaned, Boaz took notice, Naomi saw an opportunity, and God continued His plan.

Future Unclear (Ruth 3:8-10) p. 120

When Naomi learned that Ruth had been gleaning in the fields of Boaz, she initiated a plan that would give the most advantageous route to Boaz claiming the right of kinsman-redeemer. She told her daughter-in-law to prepare herself as a bride would do before her wedding night.

Vs. 9 Boaz was not able to identify Ruth on his own. For a moment, he had no idea who sat at his feet. In response to Boaz’s inquiry, Ruth employed language charged with the weight of covenantal commitment—language that resonates with themes of betrothal and marriage. “Take me under your wing.” Another translation is: “Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family (NIV).” I ask God to cover me with His righteousness by the precious blood of Jesus. God, take me under Your wing and protection. I hope as you read scripture that you pray as well. Scripture is a two-way communication. God talks and we answer. As Ruth asked Boaz to spread his garment over her, it was more than a plea for protection; it was an audacious request for marriage. Ruth humbled herself but boldly requested Boaz to take her under his wing as their family redeemer. Interestingly, being a Moabite widow, Ruth was not bound by Jewish law. Ruth’s courage in seizing the moment reflected a profound step of faith and reliance on God’s providence.

Boaz's response reveals that he understood the gravity of her request—he saw her seeking not just a refuge but a lifelong partnership.

Any interpretation that suggests that Naomi wanted Ruth to act seductively must be rejected. Naomi was viewed by the people in Bethlehem as an honorable woman. Ruth's clothing was not indicative of a prostitute's dress. She laid at Boaz's feet but did not act aggressively toward him. Boaz's response to Ruth showed his integrity by not taking advantage of Ruth at the moment. As Ruth asked Boaz to spread his garment over her, it was more than a plea for protection; it was an audacious (brazen) request for marriage.

Vs. 10 Ruth's decision to seek Boaz, her family redeemer, over pursuing younger men showcased her faithfulness to family obligations rather than personal preference. Boaz was older than Ruth and he appreciated her steadfastness and regard for familial ties, recognizing her actions as deeply faithful and kind. By prioritizing family connections over personal desires, Ruth upheld her commitment, reflecting a dutiful heart. Her choice to humble herself before Boaz shows a profound strength of character and dedication to doing what was right. The way the Lord works might seem mysterious, but when God's people walk in integrity, focused on bringing God glory, His plans unfold beautifully. Naomi sent Ruth to the threshing floor in hope that God would provide. Ruth went to the threshing floor in faith, not knowing how God would work. Boaz responded in love to the inward beauty of Ruth's character. What "threshing floor" is God nudging you toward?

Future Secured (Ruth 3:11-13) p. 122

Boaz commended Ruth's virtuous reputation throughout the community, which likely bolstered her confidence in the path she had chosen. Over her time in Bethlehem, Ruth had become well known to the villagers. There was widespread respect for Ruth among them. He acknowledged her as a woman of noble character, promising to fulfill her request for redemption if the nearer kinsman-redeemer declined the responsibility. Ruth and Boaz's actions emphasized reliance on God's providential design, assuring that whatever the outcome, it would align with divine purpose. I ask myself, "Do my actions align with divine purpose?"

Vs. 12 Boaz emphatically affirmed his role as Ruth's kinsman-redeemer. He also mentioned a closer relative that had the first right of redemption. Boaz would do things the right way and trusted God to determine the outcome. While the passage in Deuteronomy 25:5-10 centered on a brother fulfilling the duty of kinsman redeemer, it implies a broader order of kinship. If the closest relative refused, another could assume the responsibility. Thus, Boaz highlighted both his willingness and adherence to the proper sequence of kinship obligations in securing Ruth's future.

Vs. 13 “If he [the other relative] doesn’t want to redeem you [Ruth], as the Lord lives, I [Boaz] will.” Either way, by Boaz or the closer family redeemer, Ruth’s future was secure. Nothing allows you to truly rest and gives peace like knowing you are secure in God’s promises.

Following the Proper Procedure (Ruth 4:3-6) read in Bible

Boaz summoned his rival to come and hear the matter presented to him. Boaz proposed to the other relative that he redeem Naomi’s land, which had probably been mortgaged for money to buy bread when the famine was in the land. Boaz brought this matter to the attention of the relative so that the relative might have the first refusal of it. The relative seemed willing to redeem the land until he was told that if he did that, he must marry the widow, and then he drew back. The land, the thought, would improve his inheritance, but the land with the woman would not; in fact he thought that would spoil it. The right of redemption is justly given to Boaz. If this nameless relative lost a good bargain, good lands, and a good wife, he had only himself to blame for not paying more attention to it. The man stated that acceptance would have ruined his inheritance. The reasons could have been the apparent awkwardness of bringing another woman into his home, and he could have had grown sons already enjoying the inheritance of their lands. Boaz would thank the nameless relative for making the way clear for him to gain what he valued.

Contract by Shoe (Ruth 4:7-9) read in Bible

In our culture the final step in the transfer of property, a house for example, is turning over the keys to the new owners. Before witnesses, ten elders, a ceremony used in ancient Israel to transfer possession of a right [property] was when the one who surrendered his right took off his sandal and transferred it to the one receiving the right. This showed that the right he once had to walk on the land was transferred, in exchange for something of value to the purchaser. The exchanged thing of value to the closer relative was not having to marry Ruth. The “shoe off” was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel and was used in this case.

Future Redeemed (Ruth 4:13-17) p. 123

The theme of redemption reaches its joyful fulfillment as Boaz takes Ruth as his wife. The Lord blessed their union, and Ruth bore a son, creating a new chapter of hope and continuity not only for her but for Naomi as well. The women of the town praised God for providing Naomi with a redeemer in this newborn, highlighting the restoration of her family line. The book of Ruth beautifully illustrates God’s providential hand, redeeming the lives involved and weaving them into His greater plan, ultimately pointing to David, and through him, to Jesus—the ultimate Redeemer. The son born to Boaz and Ruth was regarded as a divine gift. There is an acknowledgment throughout this story that shows that

God orchestrates all events. God had not left Naomi without a family redeemer, referring to the newborn, not Boaz, as the community's future hope. They prayed for the child to gain fame, just as earlier prayers were lifted for Boaz.

Vs. 15 The women prophesied that the child would bring great significance to Naomi, describing him as one who "will renew your life and sustain you in your old age." Declaring Ruth as better than seven sons underscored her immense value, defying cultural norms where numerous male offspring were highly prized. This tribute emphasized Ruth's profound impact on Naomi's life, demonstrating that true worth transcends traditional expectations and pointing to a future filled with hope and fulfillment through steadfast love and God's provision.

Vs. 17 God can redeem brokenness and fulfill His promises in unexpected ways. It inspires me/us to praise God for His sovereign provision, and thank the Lord for His faithfulness in orchestrating events for our good and His glory. Like Naomi and Ruth, we may not always see God's plan unfolding, but we can trust His timing and purpose. I am compelled to seek a heart of obedience and trust: to ask God for help to remain faithful and obedient, even when circumstances are difficult.

Closure I pray now for us to receive the strength to trust in His redemptive power, knowing He can bring restoration from any situation, and to intercede for others awaiting redemption. I am compelled to lift up those who are in seasons of loss or waiting, asking God to reveal His presence and plan to them, and pray that they would experience the joy of God's restoration and become testimonies of His grace.