

## Sticky Group Discussion Questions for Sunday, December 14, 2014

Ruth's Redeemer

Ruth 2

**1. We are reading Ruth this year as a "Christmas Love Story." The sermon series is divided into four parts :**

- Ruth 1 -- Ruth's decision (key verse -- 1:16-17)
- Ruth 2 -- Ruth's redeemer (key verse -- 2:20)
- Ruth 3 -- Ruth's request (key verse -- 3:9)
- Ruth 4 -- Ruth's blessings (key verse -- 4:14)

**Ties between Ruth and Christmas include the following :**

- The events of Ruth take place, for the most part, in Bethlehem.
- In Ruth, we see some hints of Mary's own experience. (See quote at end of this lesson.)
- Boaz is an Old Testament picture of Jesus, the Redeemer.
- By God's design, Boaz and Ruth are in the human genealogies of King David and of Jesus.

**Find Boaz in the following genealogies :**

- Ruth 4:17-22
- Matthew 1:1-16 (Jesus' genealogy through Joseph)
- Luke 2:23-38 (Jesus' genealogy through Mary)

**2. What is significant about the fact that Boaz was one of the "closest relatives" of Naomi and Ruth (Ruth 2:20) ?**

Review the Israelite laws of redemption which serve as a background to the story of Ruth.

- Leviticus 25:25 (redemption of property)
- Leviticus 25:47-49 (redemption of people)
- Deuteronomy 25:5-6 (redemption of the family name, by raising children for a deceased brother)

**What is a redeemer ?**

**What does it mean to redeem something (or someone) ?**

Three conditions were required for a close relative to be able to redeem :

- He must be kin.
- He must be able to redeem.
- He must be willing to redeem. (Read Deut 25:7-10 & Ruth 4:1-8 for the case of someone unwilling.)

Did Boaz fulfill all three conditions ?

How did Jesus fulfill all three conditions in order to be our Redeemer ?

**3. Read as many of the following New Testament passages as possible. How does the New Testament explain the concept of redemption ? In what way(s) is Jesus our Redeemer ?**

Matthew 20:28 / Luke 24:21 / Romans 3:21-24 / 1 Cor 6:20 / 1 Cor 7:22-23 / Gal 3:13 / Gal 4:4-5 / Eph 1:7  
Col 1:13-14 / Titus 2:13-14 / Heb 9:11-12 / 1 Peter 1:18-19 / Revelation 5:9

**4. What quality, or qualities of Boaz, do you find most outstanding ? (Several were mentioned Sunday.) How do those qualities correspond to the kind of person Jesus was ?**

**5. One of Boaz's outstanding qualities was that he was a provider. Elisabeth Elliot, in her book *God's Guidance*, states that the ultimate thing the Lord is providing us is to "make us fit to live with Him." What do you think she means by that ? How is Ruth's story one of someone being made spiritually "fit" ?**

**6. Another of Boaz's outstanding qualities was that he cared (Ruth 2:14-16). What specific examples can you give of how the Lord has recently cared for you ? In what ways do you especially need His care this Christmas season ? Spend some time praying for each other.**

a poignant thought on the conclusion of the book of Ruth from *Bible History : Old Testament*, by Alfred Edersheim :

*A son gladdened the hearts of the family of Bethlehem. Naomi had now a "redeemer," not only to support and nourish her, nor merely to "redeem" the family property, but to preserve the name of the family in Israel. And that "redeemer" – a child, and yet not a child of Boaz ; a redeemer-son, and yet not a son of Naomi – was the father of Jesse. And so the story which began in poverty, famine, and exile leads up to the throne of David. Undoubtedly this was the main object for which it was recorded : to give us the history of David's family ; and with his genealogy ... the book of Ruth appropriately closes. It is the only instance in which a book is devoted to the domestic history of a woman, and that woman a stranger in Israel. But that woman was the Mary of the Old Testament.*