

The Christmas Files – Ruth and Boaz

Matthew 1:5b (HCSB) Boaz fathered Obed by Ruth, Obed fathered Jesse,

Text: Matthew 1:5, Ruth 3

Topics: Christmas, Love

Supplemental Text: See Below

South Orlando Baptist Church

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The story of Ruth and Boaz will challenge you to...

- 1) Seek the best for those you love (3:1-5)
 - a. Naomi sought the best for Ruth. There is this mystery about love where we lay our rights down for the advancement of our loved ones.
 - b. See also 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

- 2) Sustain purity for marriage (3:6-13)
 - a. The gesture of a man covering a woman with his garment was a symbolic act, which according to Near Eastern custom signified the establishment of a new relationship and the symbolic declaration of the husband to provide for the sustenance of the future wife.
 - b. Remarkably, Boaz interpreted this immediately not as a demand for sex but as a proposition for marriage, a conclusion supported by his response in vv. 10–13. (New American Commentary - New American Commentary – Volume 6: Judges, Ruth.)
 - c. See also Proverbs 31:10-12; 1 Corinthians 7:1-2

- 3) Stay faithful to your promises (3:11-18)
 - a. Boaz promised to look after Ruth and to see if he could redeem her. Boaz was faithful to obey the scriptural commands to redeem Ruth and to protect and care for her.
 - b. Boaz' word was good and his actions proved an immediate response to help Ruth.

What is a Kinsman Redeemer?

Kinsman-Redeemer (goel): a person who buys back, redeems, saves, rescues a family member. In ancient days, it was the responsibility of the nearest relative to provide for the family and to protect the rights of all family members. The nearest relative was known as the redeemer or kinsman (goel). The kinsman-redeemer was responsible by law to save his relative from any trouble the relative faced. The kinsman-redeemer...

- was to redeem or buy back land that had been sold by a family member (Leviticus 25:25)
- was to buy back a family member who had been sold as a slave (Leviticus 25:47-49;)
- was to look after any family member who faced a critical need and was helpless to meet the need himself
- was to marry the wife of a dead brother who had no children (see outline—• Deuteronomy 25:5-10 and note—• Deuteronomy 25:5-10 for more discussion).
- was to help family members secure justice in legal disputes and in the courts of the land (Proverbs 23:11).

Simply stated, the kinsman-redeemer took care of weak family members who faced critical or hopeless situations. This was the law of the kinsman-redeemer, a law established by God Himself. It was the principle of redemption that guaranteed the rescue or salvation of His people from helpless, hopeless situations.

(Taken from The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible – Judges, Ruth, (Chattanooga: Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 1996)

Where is Jesus in this passage?

1. Jesus is our Kinsman Redeemer – Through his death for our sins, burial, and resurrection, Jesus is able to redeem us out of our sins and place us into his protective love and care. Romans 3:24, 2 Corinthians 8:9, Galatians 1:4, Colossians 1:14, 1 Peter 1:18-19, Psalms 40:17, Isaiah 41:10.
2. Boaz as a Type of Christ - Boaz was definitely a type of Christ. Bible students have seen in Boaz a picture of our Lord Jesus Christ in His relationship to His bride, the church. Like Ruth, the lost sinner is outside the covenant family of God, bankrupt, with no claim on God's mercy. But God took the initiative and provided a way for us to enter his family through faith in Jesus Christ. (See Ephesians 2:10-22.) (Warren Wiersbe)
3. 3:9 – Just as Boaz spread his protection over Ruth, Christ spreads his protection over the church, his bride (2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25–27).