

# Risk and Temptation | Ruth Week 4

Read: Ruth Chapter 3

## DAY 1: Ruth's Hope For Restoration

**“Could a distant relative be the key to restoration!?”**

Last week, Naomi discovered that Ruth was working in the field of Boaz, a close relative. This was a key turning point in Ruth and Naomi's story as it offered a glimmer of hope and future that was less daunting. With this new-found information, Naomi instructed Ruth to make herself ready and approach Boaz at the Threshing Floor. Those instructions to Ruth had a much deeper meaning than merely putting on fresh clothes and splashing on some perfume; culturally, this has been described as an act of self-care, renewal, and preparing her heart. As a widow, this could also have been a signal from Naomi to Ruth that the mourning period is over; it's time to move forward and seek remarriage. Naomi also knew the covenant God who provided a way for widows to be cared for. The kinsman-redeemer (potentially Boaz) would be the answer for restoring what was lost.

By observing Naomi, Ruth was able to be mentored in a faith walk so different from her own. After struggling and striving all this time, could this man be the answer? By preparing for marriage to this man, Boaz, if she surrendered all to this God and followed Naomi's plan, would they finally be able to live -- truly live a life of hope? Based on what Naomi shared, Boaz, if he truly was the kinsman-redeemer, had the responsibility to provide security for her.

After so much time spent grieving her loving husband, could this be time now to walk away from past sorrow and walk toward a fresh start, a new future? She most likely felt this way before when deciding to walk away from Moab and stay by Naomi's side as they journeyed to this land of her husband's heritage through Naomi. Putting aside any doubts, any trepidation or fear, she solemnly prepared herself to enter into a new plan for her life.

She cautiously approached the threshing floor and waited as Naomi instructed until Boaz was at rest. Revealing herself and intentions now would be detrimental. This one simple act of laying at one's feet has so much meaning. To lay at one's feet speaks of total surrender and submission and has been described as a formal request for covenant protection. By laying at the feet of Boaz, she was in essence saying, "I submit to you" and would rely on, trust in Boaz to provide for and protect her. *In a life-changing way, Christ is our Kinsman-Redeemer and is qualified to redeem us from a life without hope and secures an eternal future for our souls.*

With her seemingly doomed future staring her in the face:

- no inheritance,
- no hope of a husband, and
- she was most likely stuck to a life of servitude at the whim of whomever would claim her...

Ruth took a risk to trust in the covenant promise of a kinsman-redeemer (Eze:16).

## **REFLECT**

Do you have areas in your life where you need to lay it all down at His feet?

## **PRAY**

Take a moment to pray and ask God for areas in your life may need to be restored to His heart.

## **DAY 2 | Boaz's potential role**

### **“Kinsman-Redeemer, Lord, lead me through this one; I choose You”**

In ancient Israel, the threshing floor had a few purposes such as being the place to separate the grain from the chaff, a politically neutral place to gather, and a place of mourning. Here in Ruth's story, we'll refer to the threshing floor in an agricultural sense – the place where the grain was separated from the chaff by tossing the grain into the air with a winnowing fork and/or trampled by oxen. In a religious sense, this has been described as refining what is true and good. As was custom of the day, the owners stayed with the harvest to protect the harvest from thieves/criminals known to be in the area (I Samuel 23:1).

Boaz was known as a successful, well-respected, religious man and sources note that he was the cousin of Mahlon, Ruth's deceased husband. Given that he was also reported to be a member of the Sanhedrin, he most likely had extensive knowledge of the Torah and the responsibilities of a kinsman-redeemer. Those responsibilities included redeeming/buying back someone from slavery or redeeming forfeited land. The kinsman-redeemer was viewed as a protector or someone who could provide security. (Lev 25:25 & 48: Num 35:19; Deut 25:5-10; Matt 20:28)

After celebrating the completion of the harvest, he took his place in the threshing floor area where others were also staying the night. As the owner, he was expected to stay there to guard the harvest from thieves (I Samuel 23:1). He was in a deep sleep and as we learned, startled to find someone at his feet. When Boaz startles and realizes there is someone at his feet, Ruth states her claim and requests that he covers her since he is her Kinsman-Redeemer (EZE 16:8).

Boaz – a man of honor – instead of jumping right in and saying “I will be your Kinsman-Redeemer” -- humbly shares that there is a closer relative who may be willing to take this responsibility. Due to the early light of dawn, Boaz encouraged her to be on her way so that no one could accuse them of impropriety in a desire to protect their reputations. He fills her shawl with 6 measures of barley. It has been referenced that according to Jewish tradition, the 6 measures are symbolic of the 6 men who descended from Ruth:

David  
Daniel  
Hananiah  
Mishael  
Azariah  
And ....  
Jesus / our Lord / Messiah

Boaz was a gentleman and showed respect for Ruth and his heart was to follow God first and His plan.

Ruth's character is what made her attractive (Proverbs 31) --

### **REFLECT**

What character traits do you show that make you attractive to others?

What character traits do you exhibit to attract others to Christ? (2 COR 2:15-17 *Aroma of Christ*; Gal 5:22-23 *Fruit of the Spirit*)

## **DAY 3 | Ruth and the World's Restoration**

Ruth, a woman who was desperate for someone to intervene and restore hope. A woman who chose to follow another woman who exemplified the type of relationship she craved. A woman who trusted in someone greater than herself to find all she was looking for in her newly discovered God, her Kinsman-Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Ruth ends up in the lineage of Jesus Christ.

Ruth chose to step away from what was known to follow Naomi. Ruth chose to go to the Threshing Floor and lay it all down at the feet of man she barely knew but could only trust and hope that God would see her, provide for her, and follow through with His side of the Covenant promise. Ruth found restoration and hope for her future in her kinsman-redeemer, Boaz, a shadow of our Kinsman-Redeemer Jesus Christ.

### **REFLECT**

What are the burdens in your life that are blocking your way of restoration? Will you lay it all down and trust Him to carry those burdens and restore your Hope:

***Matt: 11:28-30: lay it all down at His feet and live the life of freedom He has for you***

What areas in your life need restoration?

***Romans 12:1 -- Renew your mind on the promises for you in His Word***

What reminders do you need to have hope and Someone who is there for you:

***John 8:36 -- He whom the Son sets free is free indeed***

**PAUSE FOR THOUGHT:**

Throughout Israel's history God has continually restored them to Himself. When Israel stepped away from God's plan, God lovingly restored her to Himself. This is a key component of the Covenant relationship God set in place for His people. Volumes of books have been written and years of sermons spoken to communicate the amazing truth that God loves His people even when we mess up. When we step away from His love and are seemingly lost forever, He is right there with each of us ready to say the sentiment of Ezekiel 16:18 and John 3:16-17-- I see you, I am here, I love you – I gave my Son to pay the price to redeem you and rescue you from it all.

Even though you may feel that all hope is lost and nothing is redeemable, there is hope for complete restoration by laying it all down at the feet of Jesus; will you let Him be your Kinsman-Redeemer?