

RUTH 4:8-12
JESUS, OUR GOEL!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Ruth chapter 4 as we continue our in-depth study through the book of Ruth.

And without a doubt, this has been an amazing journey for this family. Make no mistake about it, even when this family was not walking with God, God's hand of direction was still upon them and leading them to the point of where we are at this morning in our study.

Remember that Elimelech lived in Bethlehem with his wife Naomi and his two sons, Mahlon and Chilion.

And the events in this book took place during a very dark period of time for the nation of Israel, it was during the time of the Judges. And yet, this book does bring some light into those dark times, as we will see and really have seen in our study.

In this story we see that in Bethlehem there was a famine that came upon the land and for this family, they thought the solution was to leave the House of Bread, leave Bethlehem and head to Moab, a washpot, into the world!

Now keep in mind that all the people in Bethlehem did not leave, but this family did and while they were down in Moab, outside the Promised Land, Elimelech dies, their two sons marry Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth, and then Mahlon and Chilion die in Moab as well!

All that is left for Naomi is her two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth. It is at this point that Naomi hears that God is blessing the people down in Bethlehem and she decides to head back home, back to Bethlehem.

But before she goes, she tells Orpah and Ruth to remain in Moab and marry once again, she does not want them to go with her.

And what she is basically telling them is that the Lord has brought all this upon her. In other words, ***“Don’t come with me. God has placed a big target on my back, and He is taking target practice with me. If you follow me, you will only get hurt. Look, you have lost your husband’s already. Please stay in the washpot or Moab!”***

Also, keep in mind that these women, Orpah and Ruth did not know anyone down in Bethlehem except for Naomi. Their family was there in Moab as well as their friends. Thus, we see Orpah kiss Naomi and head back to Moab.

But Ruth clings to Naomi and tells her that she is going with her and only death would separate them.

Why did she want to go with Naomi? Because she came to know the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and thus, she was going to follow Naomi to the House of Bread because she wanted to know more about this God she came to know.

Keep in mind that Naomi has become bitter towards God and it was reflected in her life, the things that she said and the things that she did. She gave up on God and is mad at Him. Thus, as they come to Bethlehem and the women recognize her, they also see the changes in her look, and they ask her **“Is this Naomi?”**

You see, her rebellion against God, living in the world for ten years, that is how long they were down in Moab, had taken its toll on Naomi and the women recognized something had changed.

And for Naomi, she does not want them to call her Naomi, which means pleasant, but to call her Mara, which means bitter!

And as much as Naomi was angry with God, mad at God, bitter towards God, we see God working in her life and in the life of Ruth!

Keep in mind that when they went to Moab, they sold their property, and the idea was that when they returned, they would be able to buy it back.

But, because Elimelech died and also her two sons, they had no resources to buy the property back and all they could do to survive was to glean in the fields to gather in the leftover grain.

And Naomi, not walking by faith at this point, tells Ruth that there is a kinsman of her husband's and that she should go and glean in his field.

Out of that, as Boaz sees Ruth, he falls in love and he wants to marry her and be the kinsman for her.

It is at this point that the faith of Naomi wakes up and she is seeing the hand of God working and that bitterness is turning to pleasantness in her life!

But there was a problem, and we see that in Ruth 3:10-13 as we see Boaz speak to Ruth about this situation and we are told, **“Then he said, ‘Blessed are you of the Lord, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich. And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman. Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you - good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the Lord lives! Lie down until morning.’”**

The problem here is that there was a nearer relative who could take the role of the kinsman and Boaz, being a godly man, is going to do what is right and offer that role to this man, and that would include the marriage of Ruth.

Now this whole idea of a kinsman and redeeming the land and the name for the dead person is not a big deal today, but it was back then!

Why was this such a big deal?

David Guzik puts it into perspective for us as he tells us: "If Boaz did not fulfill this duty towards Elimelech (though he was now deceased), then the direct family and name of Elimelech would perish. Perpetuating the family name of Elimelech (and every man in Israel) was thought to be an important duty. These protections showed how important it was to God to preserve the institution of the family in Israel - and that it is also important to Him today."

May we not forget that!

Now, last time, in our study, that is what we looked at. This man, who was a nearer kinsman than Boaz, and we don't know his name, but Boaz offers him this role of being the kinsman and he is interested in the land purchase but not Ruth, and thus, he refuses to take the role of the kinsman!

And we saw that the picture being painted for us of this man was that he was a picture of the Law.

There is nothing wrong with the Law, it is just the Law. It is not interested in people; it just states what is right and what is wrong and if you break it you are guilty.

In other words, the Law can't deal with you and me, it has no power to do so. The Law is like a mirror showing us our failures, how bad we really look, and it has no power to fix those problems.

Thus, the Law came first, and it showed us our sin, how far from God we really are and then came our Messiah, Jesus, our Goel or Kinsman Redeemer who could redeem us from our sin and restore our relationship with God that sin had broken!

Warren Wiersbe sums this up for us as he wrote,

The Book of Ruth opens with three funerals but closes with a wedding. There is a good deal of weeping recorded in the first chapter, but the last chapter records an overflowing of joy in the little town of Bethlehem. “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning” (Ps 30:5, KJV). Not all of life’s stories have this kind of happy ending; but this little book reminds us that, for the Christian, God still writes the last chapter. We don’t have to be afraid of the future.

- Warren Wiersbe, *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – OT*, p. 489

I like that, God is in control and that is really what Naomi saw, the hand of God upon her life now, and really, God’s hand was upon the life of Ruth and Boaz as well.

This morning we are going to focus on – ***JESUS, OUR GOEL!***

And just like we did last time when we looked at this man and how he was a picture of the Law, we are going to focus on Boaz and how he is a picture of Jesus Christ, our Kinsman! It is a picture of Grace!

I have broken these verses down into four main points and they are as follows:

HE MUST BE A NEAR RELATIVE – RUTH 4:8

HE MUST BE WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE OF REDEMPTION – RUTH 4:9

HE MUST BE WILLING TO ACT AS THE REDEEMER – RUTH 4:10

THE JOY AND BLESSINGS OF BEING REDEEMED – RUTH 4:11-12

I realize for some, this is not that hot of a topic, but the reality is, it is everything for us. Without Jesus redeeming us we are still lost in our sins and we have no way of rectifying that problem.

Let me share this with you and then we will dig into our study this morning, but it is important that you see what we have in Christ, what He has done for us, something we could never do. We are told,

Lou Johnson, a 1965 World Series hero for the Los Angeles Dodgers, tried for 30 years to recover the championship ring he lost to drug dealers in 1971.

Drug and alcohol abuse cost him everything from that magical season, including his uniform, glove, and the bat he used to hit the winning home run in the deciding game.

When Dodger president, Bob Graziano, learned that Johnson's World Series ring was about to be auctioned on the Internet, he immediately wrote a check for \$3,457 and bought the ring before any bids were posted. He did for Johnson what the former Dodger outfielder had been unable to do for himself.

Johnson, 66, who has been drug-free for years and a Dodger community relations employee, wept when given the gold ring. He said, "It felt like a piece of me had been reborn."

Countless Christians can testify to a spiritual rebirth as a result of the price that Jesus paid on the cross in their place. He did for them what they could not do for themselves.

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May we never forget what Jesus has done for us, it is precious, it is priceless, and we could never accomplish it no matter how much we tried.

You see, the Law condemns us, but Jesus sets us free!

Let me take a minute before we get to our text to talk about redemption, what that is all about. And yes, we will get to our text.

Let me give you the definition of redemption, what the dictionary defines redemption as:

1. the action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil.
2. the action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment, or clearing a debt.

Paul tells us in Romans 5:8-11, **“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”**

Now there are three different Greek words for *“redemption.”*

One of the Greek words for the act of redemption (the purchasing of a slave) is *agorazo*. That is to say you were buying a slave.

There’s a second word for redemption that the Greek reader of Scripture would readily understand, *exagorazo*, or *“the act of purchasing or redeeming never to return.”*

You see, oftentimes, a man would buy a slave, use him for the cultivating and planting of his fields or the harvesting his crops, and then return him to the marketplace to be sold again.

Exagorazo was the exact opposite of this practice, in that it spoke of permanent possession.

The third Greek word for redemption is *apolutrosis*.

Apolutrosis speaks of a man going into the agora or the marketplace in the center of town to purchase a slave for the purpose of setting him free totally and completely never to be a slave again.

Paul uses this third Greek word in Colossians 1:14 where he tells us, “**in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.**”

What Paul is saying is that Jesus Christ has purchased us from the slavery of sin and has set us free, never to be returned as a slave any longer!

That is the wonderful news we will be looking at this morning as our Goel has redeemed us from sin and set us free in the Kingdom of His Son!

With that as our introduction, let’s begin reading in Ruth chapter 4, beginning in verse 8 and let’s see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word and look at the topic of – ***JESUS, OUR GOEL!***

RUTH 4

VERSE 8

The first point we will be looking at in regard to a kinsman is - ***HE MUST BE A NEAR RELATIVE!***

We see this spoken of in Leviticus 25:25, “**If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold.**”

And what we have seen in our study of Ruth chapter 4 is that the nearer kinsman refused to purchase the land and marry Ruth, just like the Law has no power to save us.

The nearer kinsman basically said to Boaz, *“Look Boaz, I am not willing, I am not able to redeem the land because I cannot take Ruth as my wife. Thus, the land is yours to redeem. And with the land, because you are willing to redeem the posterity of Elimelech, Ruth will be your wife!”*

Now, in saying that, *“Did Boaz need another field to purchase?”*

I think the answer to that question is no! He was a wealthy man who already owned a field.

Then why did he buy the field?

He bought the field so that he could obtain Ruth to be his wife.

I find that interesting because Jesus, in His parable of the Hidden Treasure, said, **“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid, and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys the that field.”** Matthew 13:44.

Jesus redeemed the world out of the hands of Satan, not because He needed another world, but for the treasure that was in the world - the Bride of Christ - us!

What a beautiful picture of Christ that is seen in the actions of Boaz.

But there is a problem because how does God redeem sinful man? How does God become a near relative to sinful man so that He can redeem us?

The answer to that question is simple. God became flesh and dwelt among us!

In the Incarnation we see Almighty God put on a body of flesh. Fully God and fully man in the Incarnation!

John tells us in John 1:14, **“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”**

Here we see that the Word or Jesus, God Almighty dwelt among us. And the idea here is that we see humanity added to His deity, God became flesh and dwelt or tabernacled or pitched His tent among us, the Incarnation!

In Matthew 1:22-23 we are told, **“So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’”**

Of this word, “dwelt” Clarke tells us, *“And tabernacled among us: the human nature which he took of the virgin, being as the shrine, house, or temple, in which his immaculate Deity condescended to dwell. The word is probably an allusion to the Divine Shekinah in the Jewish temple.”*

They beheld His glory! And I think John is speaking of that Shekinah glory that filled the Temple.

And Paul, in regard to the incarnation, said In I Timothy 3:16, **“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.”**

We also see that spoken of in Philippians 2:5-7 where Paul tells us, **“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.”**

Jesus did not steal the role of God, He did not try to usurp the role of God, but He was equal with God, but took on the form of man, became flesh and blood! And yet, fully God!

In Hebrews 2:17-18 Paul wrote, **“Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”**

If He was to be our Great High Priest, He had to become flesh and blood to offer the sacrifice for our sins. And the amazing thing is that He is that perfect sacrifice for us!

Why did Jesus have to do this for us?

Because ever since Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, that sin nature has been passed down to all of us. We have the inherited sin of Adam and we have plenty of our own sin in our lives.

And if we really think about it, only one sin will keep you out of the Kingdom of God because God demands perfection before Him. Thus, as Paul said, **“all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”** Romans 3:23.

Thus, Jesus has come to set us free from the bondage of sin we are in by paying the price for our redemption, His shed blood on the cross of Calvary!

When He was born into this world in human flesh, He became our ***“near kinsman”***; and He will remain our ***“kinsman”*** for all eternity!

Again, listen to what Warren Wiersbe wrote regarding this deliverance that the Lord has given to us. He wrote,

When it comes to spiritual redemption, all people are in bondage to sin and Satan (Eph 2:1-3; John 8:33-34) and are unable to set themselves free. Jesus Christ gave His life as a ransom for sinners (Mark 10:45; Rev 5:9-10), and faith in Him sets the captive free.

Each time I visit a bookstore, I try to observe what subjects are getting prominent notice; and in recent years, it's been the theme of deliverance. I see shelves of books about addiction and codependence and how to find freedom. In a world that's enjoying more political freedom than ever before, millions of people are in bondage to food, sex, drugs, alcohol, gambling, work, and dozens of other "masters."

. . . [But] it is Jesus Christ who alone can give freedom to those who are enslaved. "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 8:36, NKJV).

- Warren Wiersbe, The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – OT, p. 489

How true that is. Jesus has the right to redeem us and set us free because He is a near kinsman, a near relative to us as God became flesh and dwelt among us.

Because Jesus is a near relative to sinful man, but without sin, He has the right to redeem sinful man.

But here is a problem, you might say. Even though Jesus has the right to redeem us from our sin, to set us free, is He willing to pay the price to be our Goel or Kinsman Redeemer?

That is what we will be looking at next!

VERSE 9

In this verse we see that – ***HE MUST BE WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE OF REDEMPTION!***

Boaz also had a choice to make and what we see here is that he was willing to purchase the land that was Elimelech's and ultimately his sons, Mahlon and Chilion.

Now let's apply this to Jesus Christ and let me ask a few questions here.

Did Jesus Christ have to pay the ransom for our sins?

And even if He did have to pay the ransom for our sins, was He willing to do that?

Those are important questions that we need to think about because as we do and we see what Jesus has done, it will amaze us and bless us.

Think of it like this.

Say I have the skills to fix some electrical problems in the church. And these electrical problems need to be fixed. They are not going to fix themselves.

I know, some of you are thinking that if I am the one who is going to fix these electrical problems, in the end, it will be worse than before I started and I am sure there is a 911 call in there somewhere!

Use your imagination and just think of me as a world class electrician. Don't laugh! I think Steve told me all I need to know in regard to wiring. He said, "***White to white, black to black, pick up your paycheck!***" I got that one!

So I have all the skills as an electrician and there is work to be done, but then I must be willing to do the work. It doesn't matter what skills I have if I don't use them or don't want to use them. It will not get the job done! Will it cost me something? Sure, I have to go and do the job, it can be a dangerous job, especially for me, so again, it will cost me something!

And the same is true with God. He has the ability to redeem us because He became flesh and dwelt among us. But is He willing to pay the price for our redemption?

We all know the answer to that one. Of course He was willing to pay the price for our redemption.

And we are going to cover this idea of Jesus being willing to act as the redeemer in a few minutes, but what I want to focus on here is the cost of redemption and was He willing to do that, shed His blood for sinful man?

Peter picks up on this in I Peter 1:18-19 as he wrote, **“knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”**

Peter wants us to understand that we were not purchased with silver or gold but with the precious blood of Jesus Christ!

Peter wants us to understand that we were not purchased with the traditions from our fathers or the good works we have done, the keeping of the Law, but with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

You see, Peter is telling us that it cost Jesus His life to redeem us, to purchase us back or to pay the price for our sin. That was the price that He paid!

Remember what Paul wrote in Hebrews 9:11-17, **“But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first**

covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.”

Keep in mind that the animal sacrifices were only a temporary covering of sin. They could never take away your sins.

But only a perfect sacrifice, which these animals were not, could obtain eternal redemption for our sins!

As we know, Jesus, as our Great High Priest, did not offer animal sacrifices for our sins but shed His own blood.

It was a sacrifice only needed once for all and it is eternal in that it cleanses our past sins, our present sins and our future sins!

It is as the Lord said in Isaiah 1:18, **“Come now, and let us reason together,’ Says the LORD, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.’”**

I like the way The Living Bible translates this verse, it says, **“Come, let’s talk this over!’ says the Lord; ‘no matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can take it out and make you as clean as freshly fallen snow. Even if you are stained as red as crimson, I can make you white as wool!’”**

God has the answer to the problem of sin, and it is found in Jesus if you would only come to Him and discuss it, give your life to Him, ask Him to be your Lord and Savior!

Let me share this with you. We are told,

Jesus did not just slip into the Most Holy Place amidst a protective cloud of incense to breathlessly perform a ritual sprinkling and then exit until next year. Instead, he came having given his own precious blood once and for all, and there he sat down at the right hand of the Father – never more to leave. Everything foreshadowed by the earthly Tabernacle – the altar, the laver, the candlestick, the altar of incense, the Ark of the Covenant, and the Tabernacle itself – is fulfilled in his new priesthood in ways beyond description. . . .

But there is even more, for the unlimited access is crowned with unlimited efficacy [effectiveness] as Christ makes consciences clean. To make this point, the author reiterates the limited nature of the old system . . .

- R. Kent Hughes, Hebrews – An Anchor for the Soul, p. 229

Now, starting in Hebrews 9:16 and continuing on Paul is speaking of a “**testament.**”

To understand what Paul is saying here we need to think of this testament as being like a “***last will and testament.***” This will make sense. You see, this will not be in effect until the person who made the will dies.

Think of it like this. My children can’t come up to me and say, “***Dad, we are ready to collect on your will!***”

Why can’t they do that?

Because I am not dead yet, in fact, I am feeling pretty good! I guess you can say I am not quite dead yet!

You see, I have to die before they can receive what I have for them in my will and my wife is first in line and then the kids! I better sleep with one eye open tonight!

Therefore, Paul's point is this. The New Covenant could not take effect until the "**testator**," until Jesus died! After His death the New Covenant was established!

Spurgeon put it like this, "*If there be a question about whether a man is alive or not, you cannot administer to his estate, but when you have certain evidence that the testator has died then the will stands. So is it with the blessed gospel: if Jesus did not die, then the gospel is null and void.*"

I hope that makes sense to you but if not, let me put it into perspective for you like this.

If I am the sole possessor of someone's will, all that they own is going to be mine someday. But right now, all that the person has are only promise's that they have made to me. Then, once the person dies all those promises become a reality.

Up until the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ there was only the promise of the coming Messiah and the inheritance of eternal life through Him, the forgiveness of our sins! But when Jesus was crucified, when He died all those promises became a reality to us, they are ours as the New Covenant was established.

That is what Paul is saying to these Jewish believers, that the Old Covenant is gone, it has been replaced and ratified by the death and resurrection of Jesus!

Now think about this for a minute. Jesus is not only the *Testator*, but He is also the *Mediator* of this New Covenant!

Can any man be both?

Absolutely not because if it takes your death to establish the will being enacted upon then how can you be the mediator, you are dead?

So no man can do this but Jesus can because He not only died for our sins but He rose from the grave on the third day!

The price of redemption was the shedding of His blood and just as Boaz was willing to purchase the land and receive Ruth as his wife, so we see Jesus willing to purchase us by going to the cross of Calvary. The cost was His life!

Thus, as we have seen, the Goel or Kinsman, the Redeemer – ***HE MUST BE WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE OF REDEMPTION!***

The next point we will look at fits in with what we have just been talking about, that Jesus was willing to pay the price for our redemption, and the focus will be – ***HE MUST BE WILLING TO ACT AS THE REDEEMER!***

VERSE 10

Here we see the third point – ***HE MUST BE WILLING TO ACT AS THE REDEEMER!***

Let's look at that for a minute.

Remember what Jesus said in John 3:16-17, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”**

So we see here that God the Father loves us so much that He was willing to give His only begotten Son for us, to die for us so that we can live with Him.

But what about Jesus, was He willing to lay His life down for us? You bet He was willing, and He did.

Interestingly enough, in I John 3:16 John tells us, **“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”**

John tells us that we know what true love is all about when we look at what Jesus has done for us. How He laid down His life for us because He loves us that much!

What Jesus has done for us no one else was ever able to do or will be able to do!

And make no mistake about it, His life was not taken from Him, but He laid it down freely for us. He willingly gave His life so that we might live.

Remember what Jesus said in John 10:17-18, **“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”**

Make no mistake about it, the Bible is very clear on this, Jesus was willing to act as the redeemer for us. He was not forced to do it, but, because of His great love for us, He did do it!

And if that is not enough for you, let me give you this perspective. Revelation 13:8 gives us this perspective, that Jesus is the **“... Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”**

In other words, before the Holy Trinity; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit ever created the heavens and the earth and all that is upon this earth, Jesus, the Word, knew what man would do and what He would have to do to redeem man from his sinful condition!

Again, that is love. Jesus knew all that would have to be done to save us and even in knowing that He still created us and ultimately went to the cross of Calvary for us, the Lamb of God who has come to take away our sins by paying the penalty for our sins, the just for the unjust, in order to bring us to God the Father! He was willing to be our Redeemer!

We sing this song here at Calvary and every time we do I see how much God loves me and what He had to do to save me. The song is – ***JESUS PAID IT ALL!*** Listen to these words.

I hear the savior say
 Thy strength indeed is small
 Child of weakness, watch and pray
 Find in me thine all in all

Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe
 Sin had left a crimson stain
 He washed it white as snow

Lord, now indeed I find
 Thy power and thine alone
 Came and changed the lepers spots
 And it melt the heart of stone

And when before the throne
 I stand in him complete
 Jesus died my soul to save
 My lips shall still repeat

Jesus paid it all
 All to him I owe
 Sin had left a crimson stain
 He washed it white as snow
 Oh He washed
 Yeah He washed it white as snow

- Jesus Paid it All

Here was a debt that we could never, ever pay! And in steps Jesus and He paid that debt of sin for me in full.

Remember what we read in Titus 2:14, **“who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”** Jesus gave Himself for us, freely!

And remember what Jesus said in Mark 10:45, **“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”**

The word “**ransom**” is the Greek word LYTRON which means “*the price of release*” and it refers to a payment for the release of a slave or captive. It also carries with it the idea of a substitution. In other words, Jesus exchanged His life, He took my place so that I may live.

He has released me from the bondage of sin that I was in, I am no longer a slave to sin, but I am free at last. And, as Martin Luther King Jr. said, “*Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, I am free at last!*”

Make no mistake about it, the evidence is very clear – ***HE WAS WILLING TO ACT AS THE REDEEMER!***

VERSES 11-12

We see here that Boaz joyfully proclaimed that he was going to be the kinsman redeemer and not only that, but his love for Ruth as he will take her to be his wife.

And that is the focus of our last point – ***THE JOY AND BLESSINGS OF BEING REDEEMED!***

And in this I want you to see how the people responded to this situation, this redemption. They were excited about what was taking place, and this shows me that they loved Boaz and Ruth and they felt that this was a perfect match.

And notice again what we are told in Ruth 4:11, “**We are witnesses. The Lord make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.**”

What is that all about?

First of all, Rachel and Leah had born to them 8 out of the 12 sons who made up the tribes of Israel.

Also, we see that they did prosper in Ephrathah or Bethlehem.

Remember in Micah 5:2, **“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”**

In other words, as we will see, the Messiah will be born from their lineage in Bethlehem!

They also said, **“May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the Lord will give you from this young woman.”**

In Genesis chapter 38 we see Judah arrange the marriage of his son Er to Tamar. But he dies without any children and so his brother marries Tamar to raise up a child for his dead brother.

But he gets second thoughts and refuses to raise up a child and the Lord takes his life.

Judah has one more son and at this point he is getting a little nervous about losing this one also. So he doesn't allow this son to marry Tamar and encourages her to go home to her father. And that does not sit well with Tamar, Judah was to give this son to her!

So we see later on Tamar pretends to be a prostitute and has relations with Judah, who did not know that this was his daughter-in-law. And she became pregnant!

And news spread very quickly that Tamar was pregnant, and righteous Judah calls for her to be put to death for her actions. That was until he found out that he was the father of this child.

You see, it was Judah that had done this to her. The son of Judah and Tamar was Perez, and he became part of the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

And the blessing given here in Ruth is that her home may be like the home of Perez, kind of a strange blessing, but out of their lineage the Messiah would come!

I don't think I have to say this, but I will anyway. What our Lord and Savior has done for us cost Him so much and yet He stepped forward and saved us from our sin. That should cause us to shout for *JOY!* It should cause us to proclaim this *GOOD NEWS* to everyone we see!

Listen to what Paul said in Ephesians 2:13, **“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”**

Remember the song we sing, *“What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!”* How true that is!

Ray Stedman gives us this perspective. He wrote,

For obvious reasons, many people don't like to hear about the blood of Jesus. But God underscores it. He wants us to think about it, because blood is always a sign of violence. It is extremely important that we remember that Jesus did not simply pass away.

He died a painful, violent, bloody, gory, ugly, revolting death. He was tortured and beaten, and then His writhing body was hammered to a rough wooden cross, the end of which was dropped into a hole in the ground with a bone-wrenching thud. The blood of Jesus streamed down His face, His arms, His sides, staining the cross and the ground beneath him . . .

God wants humanity to see that when we have done our worst, sunk to our lowest, expressed our most violent hatred and sadistic cruelty, when we have tortured and impaled Innocence personified - God is there, reaching out in love, ready to forgive. He calls to us who are far off from Him, and draws us to Himself through the blood of Jesus.

- Ray Stedman

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! If you can't praise the Lord and jump for joy knowing that, then you are dead!

Just as Boaz had the right to redeem Ruth, was willing to pay the price for her redemption and was willing to act as the redeemer, so too did our Lord Jesus Christ.

And it is interesting that Ruth was a Moabite, not of the children of Israel, and I think the picture is beautiful. Ruth was a Gentile!

And the Scriptures show us that God has redeemed both Jew and Gentile and united them into the body of Christ!

And next time, as we finish up this study, we will see the lineage of the Messiah come forth and what an interesting group of people that are in this lineage!

As I close this morning, let me leave you with this to think about. We are told,

The story is told of Abraham Lincoln, who went down to the slave block and there noticed a young black girl up for auction. Moved with compassion, he bid and won her. Upon purchasing her, Lincoln told the disbelieving young girl that she was free. In her Surprise she said, "What does that mean?"

"It means you are free," he replied.

"Does that mean," she said, "I can say whatever I want to say?"

"Yes, my dear, you can say whatever you want to say."

"Does that mean I can be whatever I want to be?"

"Yes, you can be whatever you want to be."

"Does that mean I can go wherever I want to go?"

"Yes, you can go wherever you want to go."

And the girl, with tears streaming down her face, said, "Then I will go with you."

Admittedly, the account is probably more legendary than legitimate. Yet it does communicate an important spiritual truth.

Like the young girl on the slave block, we, too, have been redeemed and set free. The Bible reminds us in 1 Peter 1:18–19 that if we are in Christ, we have been “ransomed from the futile ways inherited from [our] forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ.”

Before Christ, we were sold into slavery to sin. Our hearts, our souls, our bodies were captive to sin. We had no choice but to sin.

Yet unlike the slave girl, we loved our captivity and reveled in it.

We lived in the foolishness of our minds and bliss of our ignorance. We relished every foolish, ignorant moment.

We loved the world and we hated God (Rom. 8:7).

We loved the passions of our flesh and deemed God unnecessary and His Word irrelevant for daring to challenge our lives.

We were lovers of self rather than lovers of God (1 Tim. 3:2–4).

We were on the broad road to hell and happy to be there.

It was into this situation that the Lord came. He came to us while we were His enemies (Rom. 5:10).

He came to us while we were in the chains of the Devil and the grip of this world.

He came and set us free - free from slavery to sin, free from the chains of the Evil One, free from the grip of this world and the bondage of our fleshly lust and desires.

As the Bible says, God ransomed us (1 Peter 1:18). He paid the price to free us, and now we are free. The price was not paid with greenbacks or silver or gold. It was with the most precious currency of them all, the blood of Christ.

And like the young slave girl, we should desire nothing more than to live for and live with the One who has redeemed us.

In fact, Peter reminds us that our priceless redemption should provide the motivation for our loving, joyful, holy obedience to Christ (1 Peter 1:15–16).

We are called to holiness not in order that we might be ransomed but because we have been so graciously ransomed.

- <http://bit.ly/3kyFt4q>

The Law could never save us, it only shows us how far from God we really are. It points out our sins.

And in steps Jesus and He gives to us what we don't deserve, eternal life with Him as He forgives us of all our sins, having paid for them with His sacrifice on the cross of Calvary. It is all grace, we don't deserve it, but out of His love for us, He freely gives it to us!

May we never forget that – ***JESUS LOVES ME, THIS I KNOW, BECAUSE THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO!***