

My Kinsman Redeemer

Love Story of Redemption

LESSON FIVE

As you begin your lesson, commit your study time to prayer, asking the Lord to open your eyes to the things He wants to show you and your ears to hear His voice speaking to your heart.

1. As we look back at Ruth 3, verse 11, we see in Boaz's response to Ruth that there was not even a hint of disapproval in what she had done. In fact, what does he say of her in Ruth 3:11b?
2. After reading this, why do you think he gave her the instruction he did in verse 14?
3. We often think that complete openness and transparency is the correct behavior for every situation. After all, if there is nothing wrong, we should have nothing to hide. But there are times when wisdom says otherwise. Look up these references and share some of the insights you glean. Joshua 6:17; Proverbs 11:12-13; Proverbs 17:28; Mark 9:9; John 7:10 and James 2:25.

4. We all care, to some degree, what others think of us. Ruth was not afraid of being known as a “gleaner,” nor was she ashamed of her poverty, but even though she was acting in obedience, her virtue needed to be protected by those who would misjudge and misunderstand. What things do you protect and what things are you willing to suffer reproach for? Complete the two lists in the columns below.

With All I Have I Will Protect:

I will Willingly Suffer Reproach For:

5. In Ruth 3:15 we see that Boaz did not send Ruth away empty handed. Two things can be noted here: 1) Though she must wait for an answer to her petition, Boaz would generously supply her needs while she waited. 2) His gift was an assurance to her that he would keep his promise to her. How can you relate these two things to our relationship with Christ? How has He supplied our needs, and what gift of assurance has He given to us as we wait for His return? See Romans 5:5; Romans 15:13; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 1:13-14; Hebrews 10:23.

6. In verse 16 of Ruth, chapter 3, Naomi asks Ruth how things went with their plan and Ruth gives her a full report. Naomi assures Ruth that she can trust in Boaz to do what he has told her he will do and instructs her to “sit still” and wait. How do these verses encourage your heart to rest in that quiet assurance? See Psalm 37:4-5; Psalm 138:8 and Philippians 4:6-7.

7. Where does Isaiah 40:31 tell us we can find our strength? Why? What is the **prerequisite** for this promise?

Read Ruth 4:1-5.

There are several things we can glean from these first five verses as we dig into chapter four. The first thing we can take notice of is that Boaz did not wait, but acted immediately on the matter at hand. There is a time for waiting..... and there is a time to act.

8. Look up and share one or two Scriptures that instruct us to **wait** upon the Lord.

9. Look up and share one or two Scriptures that instruct us to **take action**.

a. In your personal research and meditation on this question, did you find any specific insights that helped you distinguish between these two instructions? What would you say is the determining factor to waiting or just stepping out and taking action?

10. The Lord honored Boaz's quick response by bringing the other kinsman across his path as Boaz sits down at the gate of the city. Just as Ruth "happened" upon the field of Boaz, and as the nearer kinsman "happened" to pass by the gate when Boaz arrived, the Lord directs us and often works in our lives through the circumstances He orders. As Matthew Henry states in his commentary on this chapter, "Great affairs are sometimes most furthered by small circumstances which facilitate and expedite them." Do you believe things happen by "chance," or do you believe the circumstances of our lives are divinely ordered by the Lord? What does Proverbs 16:9 say about this?

- a. Is there a present circumstance that you're facing right now that you can apply this verse to? Is there something here you can glean for a specific situation you're dealing with? This is a personal question, but if you feel comfortable, share with the group what God is speaking to your heart.
11. Boaz acted immediately, but he did not act in his own self-interest. By bringing the matter before the nearer kinsman, Boaz could easily have forfeited his opportunity then and there. I wonder what kind of restlessness Boaz had before that counsel meeting. How does this speak to your heart? Have you ever had to make a decision that potentially could have jeopardized your own plans and goals for the sake of integrity?
12. As we look at the nearer kinsman's response we see he was quite willing to purchase the land.....until he found out that the land came with a wife who had been widowed. What reason does he give Boaz in verse 6 as to why he cannot redeem it?

13. Read Philippians 2:3-4. How does the response of the nearer kinsman relate to the message in these verses?

14. Are there things from the Lord that we find ourselves unwilling to receive because we fear that the blessing may require sacrifices that we are unwilling to make? Looking at it in very specific and practical terms, share what comes to mind as you examine your own heart. I'll start out by sharing my answer to this question right here. I KNOW that in the very early, quiet stillness of the morning hour, there waits a blessing for my day in spending quality, intimate time with Jesus that compares to nothing else my day could ever offer me. However, I often refuse that rich blessing and choose a far inferior one instead because the rich blessing calls me to sacrifice an hour's sleep, and too often I'm unwilling to make that sacrifice. Instead, I'll choose a later wake-up time, that frequently brings interruptions to that precious time alone with Jesus. What about you?

15. What was your greatest take-away from your study in Lesson Five?