

# *My Kinsman Redeemer*

## *Love Story of Redemption*

### **LESSON SIX**

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.

We ended Lesson Five with a look at the near kinsman's response to the opportunity to become the kinsman redeemer. Now we look at Boaz's response in verses 9 and 10 of chapter 4. What the nearer kinsman sees as a negative, a hardship and a sacrifice, Boaz embraces as a cherished gift and blessing from the Lord. How much this relates to Christ's response to become our Goel, our Redeemer. Just as Ruth was poor, destitute and a foreigner, one who was seen to have no worth to the nearer kinsman, Boaz saw in her a great treasure that was worth every sacrifice he had to make to redeem her for himself.

1. Name some of the sacrifices Boaz had to make to redeem Ruth. See Deuteronomy 25:5-6 for a little background and then list other things that come to mind.
  
2. What were the sacrifices Christ had to make in order to redeem us? Look up 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:5-8; Hebrews 12:2-3 as well as any other Scriptures that come to mind, then make a list of what our redemption cost Him.

Read the people's response in Ruth 4:11-12. What a reminder to us that our marriages need the prayer covering of the family of God. Note that there are three specific prayer requests made. One is specifically for Ruth, one is for Boaz and one is for his household, or the family he and Ruth would raise.

3. What is the prayer request that the people lifted up for Ruth?

- a. Rachel and Leah "built" up the house of Israel by bearing the sons which were to become the twelve tribes of Israel, but what other thoughts come to mind as you read this? What does it mean for a woman to "build her house?" Certainly this has something to do with the offspring she would birth, but in what other ways is a woman a "builder" of her home? Look up Proverbs 14:1; Proverbs 24:3-4 and Proverbs 31:10-31. Share your thoughts.

4. What is the prayer request that the people lifted up for Boaz?

- a. As the people prayed for Ruth to be the behind the scenes “builder” of her home, they pray for Boaz to be prosperous and successful in the public business of the town. They pray that his name and character would have a good reputation that was thought well known by everyone. We’ve already seen evidences of Boaz’s good character and his reputation. Look up Philippians 2:19-22 and share what Paul says to the Philippian church about Timothy’s character.
  
  - b. What does God’s Word tell us about the importance of having a reputation of good character? Look up Psalm 1:1; Proverbs 22:1; Ecclesiastes 7:1; Acts 6:3 and 1 Timothy 4:8. Share your thoughts.
5. What prayer request did the people lift up for Boaz and Ruth’s future family?

- a. The house of Perez, or Pharez, as the name is translated in some Bible versions, were ancestors of Boaz and Elimelech. Perez was also the ancestor of the Bethlehem people. They were very great in number and in strength. (For a detailed history of Perez (or Pharez) and his birth, see Genesis 38.) The main focus of this prayer request was that Boaz & Ruth's family would be numerous and great. Little did the people know how prophetic that prayer request was, and that God would answer that prayer in a way beyond their expectation or understanding. Looking ahead to verses 18 through 22 of Ruth, chapter four, read the genealogy of Perez. Who does this genealogy lead to in verse 22?
  
- b. See Matthew 1:1-17. Looking at the genealogy listed here from Abraham to David, Who does it ultimately lead us to?

Note: In Luke 3:23-38 we see another genealogy of Jesus that traces all the way back to Adam. These two genealogies are quite different, and most church historians believe that Luke is giving us the genealogy of Mary. Both genealogies trace back to David, but Matthew's records the genealogy from David to Solomon's line and Luke records it from David to Nathan and his lineage. Although it was unusual to trace a genealogy from the mother's side, so was the virgin birth quite unusual. The Greek language of the time had no word for son-in-law, so Joseph is recorded as the "son" of Heli in Luke 3:23, with a comment prior that reads Jesus was the son of Joseph, *as was supposed*. Matthew records Joseph's father as Jacob in Matthew 1:16. Since Joseph was the "legal" father of Jesus, although not the blood relative, both genealogies are of significant importance. Both lead back to David, so there is no doubt as

to Jesus being a direct descendant of David. All this to say that the Scriptures, as well as all the prophecies about the Messiah, and the people's prayer request for Boaz & Ruth's family, were all fulfilled in a mighty way.

6. As we look through the genealogy of Christ we see several women's names we recognize, five to be exact. One is Tamar, who tricked Judah by playing a harlot (see her story in Genesis 38:6-29). Another is Rahab, who was a Canaanite harlot who hid the two Israelite spies sent to spy out the land before Israel conquered it. The third is Ruth, who was a Moabite woman, another hated enemy of the Jews. The fourth is Bathsheba, whom King David had an affair with, having her husband killed upon discovering she was pregnant with his child. The fifth was Mary, the virgin mother of Jesus. We know she was chosen for this honor because God found favor in her (Luke 1:28), but certainly she must have had her share of being scrutinized and misjudged, first by Joseph who meant to divorce her for being unfaithful, and if by Joseph, most likely also by her parents and other friends and relatives as well. What kind of thoughts are stirred as you look over this list of women mentioned in Christ's genealogy? How does it speak to your heart as you get this glimpse into the heart of God?

7. Read Ruth 4:13-15a. This little book, which bears Ruth's name, is as much Naomi's story as it is Ruth and Boaz's. The beginning chapter tells us of a woman who has lost everything and returns to her homeland bitter, poor, destitute and empty. This concluding chapter rejoices in her blessings and her "fullness." We can join in the praise of the women of the town for Naomi, because we, too, have not been left without a Kinsman-Redeemer. State what verse 15a says this kinsman-redeemer will do for Naomi.
  
8. How has Christ "restored" and "nourished" your life? How do the following Scriptures describe what He has done? See 2 Corinthians 5:17, then look up and add some verses of your own and share them with the group.
  
9. In verse 15b, the people acknowledge to Naomi Ruth's special love for her. She was, according to the people, better to Naomi than seven (the number of completion) sons. Often, the greater blessings of our lives come from unexpected places. As you look back over the previous chapters, what would you say about Ruth that made her love a greater blessing than all of Naomi's losses?

10. We usually have many acquaintances, fewer real friends, and a small handful of really close relationships. What ingredients do those close friendships possess that make them different from the other relationships we have?

Read Ruth 4:16-22. We see the height of Naomi's joy in verse 16, as she holds her grandson in her lap, and the remaining verses announce the fulfillment of the people's prayer for Ruth and Naomi as the genealogy is listed for us of their offspring.

11. In Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz's life, we see unusual circumstances..... Some tragic, some discouraging, some humbling, some uncertain, but all a part of God's plan to do a work which He ordained before time began. What have you learned that you can apply to your life through this study of the Book of Ruth?