



Walking with God:

A Study on the Book of

Ruth

Day Fifteen

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I am so glad you have returned for Day Fifteen! We are almost finished with our study in the book of Ruth. I am praying for God to bless you for your diligence. God promises that His word never returns to Him void; it always accomplishes what He wills.

Before we begin, please ask God to examine your heart and reveal any hidden sin. Accept God's forgiveness and ask Him to fill you with His Holy Spirit. Thank Him for the gift of His Holy Word and the ability to read and understand it. Ask Him to give you deep insight into His word. I am praying for God to show you something wonderful today.

Now, gather your study materials, turn on your computer, and go to BLB. Today we are going to focus on Ruth 4:1-13. Let's begin!

1. Please read out loud Ruth Chapter 4. Remember to write down in your journal verses that are special to you and anything that God reveals to you through His Word.
 - a. Now please go to BLB and select another version from which to read Ruth Chapter Four.

2. Who suddenly appears on the scene in verse 1?

What's a wedding without a little last-minute drama?

- a. **What does the other close relative say he is willing to do?**
- b. **What isn't he willing to do?**

He has a choice to make, to live for himself or to live for others. Unfortunately, the Close Relative is only willing to act as a redeemer if he will personally benefit from the transaction. His choice, to live for self stands in direct contrast to Ruth, who gave up everything in order to benefit Naomi. Like Orpah, the Close Relative took the selfish route, and he too disappears from the pages of history. Living for *self* is always a dead-end.

- c. **What is Boaz willing to do?**

- c. **Practically speaking, would Boaz benefit from redeeming Ruth?**
- d. **How will Ruth benefit?**

Now let's consider our own Redeemer and redemption.

3. How did Jesus benefit from our redemption?

- a. **How did we benefit from our redemption?**

Thankfully, Jesus, for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, so we can be with Him in eternity.

Now, please read verses 7-9 again.

4. What unusual thing happens in these verses?

In order to gain a little more insight into this *sandal scandal*, please read Deuteronomy 25:5-10. Record what you learn in your journal.

Now, please read Ruth 4:9-10.

5. What extraordinary event takes place?

Who ever heard of a wedding without a bride, a bride without a gown or a ceremony without a kiss? An unconventional woman, with an unconventional life, has an unconventional wedding and marries her kinsman redeemer.

- a. **How did Boaz' marriage to Ruth benefit Mahlon?**

The sacrifice of Boaz is extraordinary in that he not only gives himself for Ruth and Naomi, but also for Ruth's dead husband. In the Hebrew culture, name and family-line were a great priority. Because of the Boaz, Mahlon's name would not disappear from the tribal records, but be perpetuated by Boaz' and Ruth's first son. Obed would be known as the son of Mahlon and inherit Mahlon's land. On the other hand, Chilion's family name ends with Orpah, due to her lack of character. She had the opportunity to preserve her husband's name by moving to Bethlehem, but Orpah chose otherwise, thus proving the importance of selecting a godly spouse.

Now, please read verse 11 again. Please focus on the unusual blessing in this verse.

- 6. Go back to Ruth 4:11 on BLB, click on the *blue box L* and research the phrase, "may your house be like Rachel and Leah." Record your findings in

your journal.

b. What are the townswomen praying for Boaz and Ruth? What does this blessing mean?

The prayer of the townswomen is in part prophetic. The children of Rachel and Leah, despite their drama, scandal, and flaws, were used by God to build His house. You will see tomorrow that God also uses the son of Ruth and Boaz for the same purpose.

The close relative is disposed of and Ruth is finally safely married to Boaz, but a question continues to run through my mind, why Ruth? Why did Boaz marry *Ruth*? Why not Naomi? Naomi would have been a more logical choice in that she was closer in age to Boaz than Ruth. Scripture does not indicate that Naomi was beyond her child bearing years. Why did Boaz choose Ruth?

I think that Boaz' marriage to Ruth symbolizes God's open invitation to salvation; all are welcome. Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female, all are welcome at that the foot of the cross of our Redeemer.

The themes of *redemption* and *redeemer* are woven throughout the book of Ruth. In Chapter 4 of Ruth we see hints of our Redeemer in these references:

- *Rachel and Leah* refers to the nation of Israel, the nation of the Messiah
- *House of Perez* refers to the tribe of Judah, the tribe of the Messiah
- *Bethlehem* refers the birthplace of Jesus, our Redeemer
- *She gave birth to a son* refers to an infant redeemer, the Baby Jesus
- Obed (looking ahead a bit) refers to a *servant*. Jesus said, "the Son of Man came to serve, not to be served.

As we see hints of our Savior in the pages of Ruth, we also see hints of ourselves in the three women of Ruth. We've all been:

- Orpah ... and **bailed-out** on God's plan for our lives,
- Naomi ... and become **bitter** over God's plan for our lives,
- Ruth ... and lived with **boldness** in God's plan for our lives.

Finally, we also discover hints of our own journey with God in the paths of Ruth, Naomi and Orpah. We are all either living:

- in Bethlehem, experiencing the abundant life of fruitfulness and challenge, living close to God,
- in Moab, experiencing a life of death, famine and emptiness, far from God,
- on the road, experiencing a time of transition, heading for Moab or Bethlehem, walking in faith or fear pending on our destination.

Who are you right now? Orpah, Ruth or Naomi? Why?

Where are you headed or where are you living?

How did you get there?

Who you are and *where* you're headed are completely up to you. But, God wants you to know that all are welcome in Bethlehem. It's *never* too late and you're never too far to turn around and come home to Him. Your Kinsman Redeemer is waiting.

Please finish by reading Ruth Chapter Four one final time.
May God bless you this day.

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