

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

Pastor Howard Daniel, Jr.

4357 US Hwy 59 South

P.O. Box 343

Livingston, Texas 77351

936-327-8870



MINISTRY OF THE WORD

AND NAOMI HAD A KINSMAN OF HER HUSBAND'S, ...OF THE FAMILY OF ELIMELECH;

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY MORNING AUGUST 18, 2019

SCRIPTURE READING: **RUTH 2:1-11**

Ruth 2:1, And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.

1. BACKGROUND

Refer to the Evening message August 11, 2016

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Both Naomi and Ruth have now returned from the land of Moab. It is important that we note it was the beginning of barley harvest season. **Ruth 1:22**, *So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.*
- b. We have been introduced to the kinsman redeemer in **Chapter 1**. We are going to discuss that in detail a little bit later.
- c. When we look at this chapter there is a **second law** that comes into focus.
- d. Earlier I asked you to not look at the **first law** in a negative way because it was God's method of protecting Israel. We will see how important this law is as we study verse by verse.
- e. Today we come to another law that might appear strange to you as well, because there is nothing in our system that will permit us to enforce this law.
- f. The children of Israel were largely agricultural minded. In our country, at one time, we were all about agriculture. We have moved from that arena into a more sophisticated system however I'm not sure it is a better system.
- g. Let's look at this **second law** from the books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy.
- h. **Leviticus 19:9-10**, *And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest. 10: And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather every grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger: I am the LORD your God.*
- i. **Leviticus 23:22**, *And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou*

gather any gleaning of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

- j. The final reference to this law is in **Deuteronomy 24:19**, *When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hands.*
- k. Notice the passage in Deuteronomy deals with the widow, strangers and the fatherless.

3. ELEVEN POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

a. And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's...of the family of Elimelech

- 1 **Ruth 2:1**, *And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.*
- 2. At this point we are introduced to Boaz. The Bible says he was an extremely wealthy man and we will see later on that Boaz will serve as a **kinsman redeemer** in accordance with the **first law** that we introduced to you in **Chapter 1**.
- 3. It is clearly stated in this verse that *Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth,*
- 4. *It is very interesting for us to understand that Boaz is a type or picture if you will, of the Lord Jesus Christ.*
- 5. It is amazing God had to have a **kinsman redeemer** who is our mediator to come and die for the sins of mankind.
- 6. **Hebrews 7:26-28** tells us why Jesus had to come and die on the cross. His credentials were set forth in this verse. *For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; 27: Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. 28: For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.*
- 7. So Jesus Christ had to come in the flesh. Born in a manger in Bethlehem to identify with sinful mankind.
- 8. In the **Book of Ruth**, this man; Boaz – a mighty man of wealth – represents strength.
- 9. The Lord Jesus Christ was willing and able to save. **Hebrews 7:25**, *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.* (This will come into focus a little later)
- 10. Some Bible scholars tell us that Boaz was not only a man of wealth, but he was a man of war and of the law.
- 11. He is introduced as a **kinsman** of Naomi's husband.

b. After him in whose sight I shall find grace.

- 1 **Ruth 2:2**, *And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.*
- 2. We have looked at the law concerning the harvest. It is emphasized twice in

Leviticus and once in Deuteronomy.

3. This was God's method of taking care of the poor, strangers, the fatherless and the widows.
4. It was a very dignified method of taking care of people in this category.
5. They were not given things to damage their self-esteem; they had to work in order to eat.
6. **2 Thessalonians 3:10**, *For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.*
7. We have a lot of this in our day. People are looking for a hand out.
8. I want you to notice that Ruth was a very smart woman. She came back from Moab and was ready to go into the field and glean.
9. The Mosaic Law, concerning the harvest permitted her to go into any field and glean behind the reapers.
10. Naomi, being older, sent her younger daughter out to glean. Ruth was anxious to take on such a task.
11. This is very important for us to see. God did not put them on relief, He did not give them a bread-line, and He did not give them a soup kitchen; they had to work for what they got.
12. They produced by the work of their own hands.
13. In accordance with the Mosaic Law the reapers were not allowed to go through the field several times to gather the grain. After they had gone through one time then the poor, the strangers and the widows and the fatherless were able to go in and glean. This provided a dignified means for them to put food on the table.
14. Ruth acts upon this law although she is a Moabitess woman, she is a little reluctant.
15. Her reluctance comes from the fact that she was told she would be an outcast.
16. Notice it says, *in whose sight I shall find grace.*
17. I could not help but to notice this in some detail.
18. It is by grace that you and I are saved. **Ephesians 2:8-9**, *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

c. Her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.

1. **Ruth 2:3**, *And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.*
2. I do not believe it was an accident that Ruth winds up in the field of Boaz.
3. If you recall, this family had been through the mill; God had chastised them. Naomi made the statement, *"I went out full and I came back empty."*
4. God is now beginning to bless them since they are back where He had originally planned for them to be; back in Bethlehem where Jesus would be born.
5. It is necessary for us to see this is the providence of God that is over ruling in all aspects because He has already stated in Micah over 700 years before that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. **Micah 5:2**, *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah,*

though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

6. It is interesting to see how God is putting all of this in place so the wise men would come from afar and the shepherds would come locally to see the babe in the manger. **Romans 8:28**, *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*
7. We notice this was in the field of Boaz. The question would be asked, How did Ruth wind up in that field?
8. I firmly believe she is lead of the Lord to do so.
9. I also firmly believe the Lord calls and leads us this day in time. He does not send us a telegram, call on the telephone. He speaks to us through His Preserved Word. After we are saved and born again, He tells us what work He has for us to do.
10. Ruth winds up in the field of Boaz.
11. The Bible uses the word *hap*. She happens to wind up in that field.
12. Some might say she was lucky, but I believe this was the providence of God over ruling.
13. I do not think Ruth had any greater vision than you and I have today.
14. In the Old Testament, God did tell people specifically what to do on occasions. For example, **Jonah 1:2**, *Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.*
15. In the book **Jeremiah** and **Ezekiel** God told them what to speak. We are not in the dark today God tells pastors and preachers what to preach. We are emphatically commanded to preach and teach the whole council of God. Paul instructs us in **Acts 20:26-27**, *Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. 27: For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. 2 Timothy 4:2*, *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*
16. Ruth getting into the right field is absolutely essential and she will later find herself in the genealogy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
17. I do not believe she had a road map. I believe she had a feel for the will of God and wanted to be obedient. We must be students of the Word of God if we expect to be in the will of God
18. I think the reason why God's people many times do not wind up where God wants them is because we have a tendency to rebel and be disobedient and do things our own way. **Proverbs 14:12**, *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*
19. I do believe that sometimes He might let us go down the wrong path but when we do, we can know for sure. He says in **Romans 8:28**, *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*
20. The Lord also states emphatically in **Hebrews 13:5**, *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

21. Many times, circumstances allow us to go down the wrong path. We focus not on God's leading but on our circumstances and events around us.
22. **Genesis 50:20**, *But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.*
23. Always remember God said, *I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.* We can always rest assure we need to be obedient, confess sin in our lives, not grieve the Holy Spirit, and attempt to be in the center of God's will.
24. We need to be committed and faithful in doing those things the Lord has called us to do.
25. **Job 13:15**, *Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.*
26. It is the providence of God that leads this young lady into the proper field.
27. Notice what happens once she gets there. God is fixing to bless abundantly because both Naomi and Ruth are saved and they are back in the will of God.

d. And, behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem,

- 1 **Ruth 2:4**, *And, behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said unto the reapers, The LORD be with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee.*
2. I could not help but to be fascinated with this beautiful form of greeting.
3. It is very emphatic. *The LORD be with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee.*
4. The Lord was uppermost in the mind of this man although he was a very prosperous man.
5. He comes in and greets his people. I will always believe in order to get the most out people one must remember that loyalty is a two way street. I believe that we need to be respectful of any person. I do not believe there are small people or large people. **Proverbs 18:24**, *A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.*
6. Boaz reflects this as he greets his reapers.

e. Then said Boaz... Whose damsel is this?

- 1 **Ruth 2:5**, *Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel is this?*
2. After Boaz greets the people his eyes are attracted to Ruth.
3. I can imagine there were other poor people gleaning; probably local girls gleaning but this beautiful Moabitess girl captures Boaz's attention.
4. *Whose damsel is this?* – I believe what he is really asking was who is this girl.
5. I am sure that being a **kinsman of Naomi**, he heard the rumors that Naomi had come back with one of her daughters in law.
6. I truly believe this is love at first sight on the part of Boaz. Some might question why I would say such a thing.
7. I truly believe this day in time, when you recognize your partner for life you will know it immediately. You might not want to move that very moment, but you know who is for you and who is not.
8. Boaz is attracted to this young girl.
9. Notice the next verse.

f. It is the Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi

- 1 **Ruth 2:6**, *And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, It is the Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab:*

2. It appears that from the tone, the servant though Boaz was questioning why he allowed Ruth to glean in the field. He seems to be halfway apologizing. The Mosaic Law provided the owners no choice with respect to taking care of the poor, the strangers, and the widows.
3. I do not believe Boaz thought that it was inappropriate for this Moabites girl to glean in his field. From later verses he had other things on his mind.

g. And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers

1. **Ruth 2:7, *And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves: so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now, that she tarried a little in the house.***
2. We know that as a result of looking at the aforementioned laws in **Leviticus** and **Deuteronomy**, she had the authority to come into the field.
3. She being a foreign girl, possible thought she would be an outcast because she had already been prepared to expect embarrassment.
4. Ruth clearly fell into the category of being poor and a stranger.
5. When we looked at her name earlier we said it meant personality or beauty. I am confident that she was very attractive and has captured the attention of this wealthy man.
6. Ruth expected she would be treated as an outcast and no one would respect who she was. Notice when she came in, she asked permission to reap and was not lazy she was out there from morning until now.
7. I do not know what time it was that Boaz showed up, but it was later in the morning because she continued from morning until now.

h. Then said Boaz unto Ruth...Go not to glean in another field

1. **Ruth 2:8, *Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens:***
2. Boaz does not waste any time. He honestly wanted to get down to the point.
3. Although the servant was apologetic, Boaz speaks directly to this girl.
4. Boaz was a very generous man. I am sure though, that none of the owners of the fields or the vineyards put up a sign and invited the poor people in to glean.
5. When they came in and asked permission, they were given the authority to do so under the Mosaic Law. If they were not permitted to glean in the field, it would be a violation of that law.
6. It is amazing this day in time how many people want to get saved and put themselves under the law to keep themselves saved. I must remind you that we can neither save ourselves nor keep ourselves saved. It is by God's grace, His mercy and the blood of Christ that does the job.
7. Always remember although being under the law, the law does not save anyone.
8. Boaz says *Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens:*
9. Don't go to anybody else's field and you are certainly welcome here, stay close or near to my maidens.

i. When thou are athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink

1. **Ruth 2:9, *Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after***

them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.

2. I believe Boaz is giving Ruth special privileges.
3. I can understand the law we have now of nepotism If my wife worked for me in the marketplace I would have the tendency of giving her a little more privilege than the others working for me.
4. It was very dangerous in those days for a woman. Especially a woman of Moab. She was likely to be insulted; just as we have people this day in time insulting various people.
5. I believe that all people are to be treated with dignity and respect.
6. Boaz says *have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.*
7. In other words he is giving her special permission to do things that would not be offered to the other gleaners.
8. When one is saved and born again, we received special privileges from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We can come to Him by His grace. **Ephesians 2:6,** And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:
9. I am thankful that I do not have to work my way to Heaven, and I do not have to work for my salvation nor do I have to try and keep myself saved. Everything that is required to go to Heaven has already been done by the Son.
10. It is **only the blood of Christ** that can do the job.
11. This noble and generous man goes a step further.

j. Why have I found grace in thine eyes

1. **Ruth 2:10,** *Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?*
2. The question comes to mind, why does God love us?
3. There is nothing lovable about us. I believe Ruth was a lovely lady and I can understand why Boaz would fall for her.
4. **There is nothing in us worthy of God.**
5. As a matter of fact in **Isaiah 53:6,** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. **Romans 3:11,** There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.
6. When we come to Christ, we are sinners. **Romans 5:8,** But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
7. If we had been the only one on the face of the Earth, Christ would have come and died for our sin. **Romans 8:1,** There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
8. Ruth is very grateful that Boaz has treated her with kindness and respect.
9. I do not believe at this stage that she expected any further provisions from Boaz.
10. But he had other things on his mind.
11. She asked why she found grace in his eyes. Why have I found grace in thine

12. eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?
Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes. - Have you ever thought of asking the Lord Jesus Christ why He loves you so much?
13. Then He will come right back and say "My grace is sufficient for thee:" **John 3:16**, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
14. **2 Corinthians 12:9**, *And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

k. And Boaz answered...how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity

1. **Ruth 2:11**, And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity. and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore.
2. From the encounter we have seen in the aforementioned verses, Boaz had not actually met Ruth on a personal basis prior to this time.
3. I don't know why Scripture is silent as to why, but he did have great information about her.
4. I believe it was the chatter of the town. This little girl came into their town and had impressed them in a great way.
5. All the things that had been said about her up until this point were good things.
6. Boaz was picking up on the talk of the town and heard about Ruth and now he has encountered her face to face.
7. He heard about her character, but I am unsure if he knew how attractive she was. **Ruth 3:11**, *And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.*
8. I firmly believe she was a beautiful young lady.
9. This next verse sums it up as to what Boaz thought about her and it gives us her salvation experience.
10. God does save and He saves to the uttermost. **Hebrews 7:25**, *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*
11. Although the Moabites were not permitted in the council of God, the Lord Jesus Christ always transcends the gap. **Deuteronomy 23:3**, *An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever:*
12. Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost. **Luke 19:10**, *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*
13. **Revelation 22:17**, *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*
14. Salvation is open to all of us. There is a purpose in going to Heaven when we obey the Gospel and accept the plan of salvation.
15. Certainly, if we do not then there is a place prepared. This place was not

prepared for man but for the devil and his angels. Hell has enlarged itself. **Matthew 25:41**, *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: **Isaiah 5:14**, Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.*

16. Hell has enlarged itself to accommodate all the unbelievers in the land this day in time.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Do you know the Saviour?
- b. **John 3:16**, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*
- c. It is **only** the Lord Jesus Christ who can save mankind. There are not six thousand ways to get to God; there is one way. **John 14:6**, *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
- d. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- e. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- f. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **10:** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- g. Please stand.

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