
**EDITED AND
ABRIDGED
DRAMATIZED
STORY**

**FROM A SERMON
OF
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RUTH



PICTURE CREDIT: SWEET PUBLISHING

The Kinsman Redeemer

Our story starts out in the time of the rulers of Israel, which were the judges, after the death of Joshua.

Now, many people look at this Book of Ruth, and they say, “It’s a love story of the Bible.” The whole Bible is a love story. It’s God on print. Jehovah, printed on a Book. None of it is just some kind of a fiction tale, but it’s all absolutely the Truth.

When the holy men were segregating the Bible, and trying to put it together in the Old Testament, this Book of Ruth was one of the outstanding Books that they accepted. Why? If it’s just a love story, why would the writers and ancient sages accept this Book as inspired? Because, there’s a hidden revelation

in It, and in this hidden revelation, you catch the real meaning and it'll bring you real close to God.

The story starts out something on this manner, with a lovable, sweet woman. Her name was Naomi. Naomi means "pleasant." Elimelech was her husband, and his name means "worship." "Pleasant worship" was her family. They had a son, Mahlon, which means "sickness," and Chilion, the other, meant "weary, gloomy, sadness." That was the family.

There came a famine in the land of Israel, and the first mistake a Jew ever makes, is to leave that land. God gave them that land. When Abraham was given that land, God told him not to leave that land. He made a mistake when he went down into Gerar, and got in trouble. A Jew is never to leave Palestine. That's his allotted place.

Naomi was driven out because of a famine. Naomi and Elimelech went over into Moab. But leaving the Promised Land, no matter how bad it was, to sojourn over in another land, brought trouble.

Naomi, because of the famine, wandered out from the lands and went into Moab, finding bread. She didn't have to do that, because the rest of them stayed in Judaea, Bethlehem.

So she wandered away with her husband, and her two sons married Moabite girls. But if God has ordained something to be done, it'll happen anyhow.

Then we find, over there, death struck the family, and they started back. Both boys died, and the father died, and Ruth started back with Orpah, and Naomi.

Now, Ruth was a pagan, serving an idol, and so was Orpah. And they were on their road, coming back with their mother-in-law, because she had heard that down in

Bethlehem-Judaea, God had lifted the plague, and the people were having bread. She had been up there in Moab about ten years.

Coming back, sad (her husband and her children dead), with her two daughter-in-laws, she must have turned and looked upon them, and said, “Why would you go with me? Now, you can’t do nothing but have trouble.” She said, “I’m sorry that the hand of God has stretched out against me.”

How many times has Israel thought that, not knowing that it was all God’s programme!

Naomi wondered, “Why has the hand of the Lord been so cruel to me, my daughter-in-laws? God has cast me out. I’m an outcast. I don’t know what I ever did, but I’m an outcast.”

But God was working His programme; because, “All things work together for good to them that love God,” no matter what it is.

She said, “You return to your mother, and find rest in your mother’s house. Your husbands are dead and you’re young, beautiful women. Go back. Go back to where you’ve come from. There find rest. God be merciful to you, because you were kind to the dead and you’ve lived virtuous since your husbands died. You’ve been kind to me, an old widow woman with no husband, and you stuck by me. Return back, and God give you rest in your house,” and they wept.

She said, “I’m old. I could have no more children. But if I would have a husband and have a child, what good would it do? You’d never wait for that baby.”

That was actually the law in those days. If a brother died, the other brother being single, he had to take the wife to raise up a name to his dead brother.

“But,” she said, “you wouldn’t wait on him, these babies. So, return back and find

yourself rest in your husbands' houses. Go back to your mothers.”

Orpah, a type of the lukewarm church that once started, won't go all the way, said, “That sounds pretty good.” So, she kissed her mother-in-law and returned back again.

That's a type of the lukewarm believer, who will believe Jesus to be the Christ, then turn around and go back into the thing she came out of.

Now, she returned back to her gods, and many a time we return back to the gods of our beginning. What a sad thing! Remember, it never spoke her name any more.

But, oh, how I like that little Ruth! She had to make a decision. I had to make a decision. You've got to make a decision. It came to a showdown in her life. It comes to a showdown in everybody's life, and Ruth had to make a decision.

So, the Bible said that her mother-in-law told her, “Go back to your gods like your sister did. Why don’t you go on back?”

Ruth said, “I’ll go where you go. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God. Where you live, I’ll live. Where you die, I’ll die. And where you’re buried, I’ll be buried.”

There’s the real decision. “Lord, I’ll take You as my Saviour. If the Bible says, ‘Repent and be baptized, in the Name of Jesus Christ,’ that I’ll do. If the Bible said I ‘must receive the Holy Ghost,’ that I’ll do. If the Bible tells me, ‘Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever,’ that I’ll believe. I’ll take the Bible and God, for what He’s written and what He is, no matter what anybody else said.” There’s the real Ruth.

She made her decision. She had to either go back or go forward. We stand on that same grounds, go back or go forward. Don’t ever go back. Let’s go forward.

On into the Promised Land they went, into the land of strange people. Ruth, was a type of the believer now. She made a decision to go with God. She's a stranger. She's got to walk as a pilgrim. She doesn't know their customs. They're all strange to her. She doesn't know what to do. That's what Ruth had to do. That's what you have to do. That's what I have to do.

Ruth had to come from her own, over to another people. She was converted. She had made a decision.

That's the way she did to Naomi. "I'll not leave you. I'll go where you go. Your people will be mine. The way they act, that's the way I'll act. The way they do, that's what I'll do. What they eat, that's what I'll eat. Where you die, I'll die. Where you're buried, I'll be buried, and the Lord do more to me if I fail anywhere."

That's the real clean-cut decision. God wants clean-cut decisions out of His Church.

“God, I don't care what you do with me, I'll go anyhow. If I die, all right. Live or die, whatever! If they laugh at me, make fun of me, it doesn't make any difference, I'll go anyhow.”

Clean-cut decision, quickly made. She clave to it. That's what Ruth did, while Orpah went back.

They journeyed on, Ruth, in her heart, not knowing where she was going.

On she went, and finally she came into the room and the place where Naomi was bringing her. And what did she find? Was everybody patting her on the back and saying, “Ruth, we're glad to have you down here”? She found discord. She found something evil. She found trouble.

As we go on, we find them coming into disappointment. Notice, life was hard for her, and it's hard after you become a Christian. You've got to adjust yourself from one life of gaiety and pleasures of the world, to another life of consecration to God.

So Ruth had to adjust herself from being in a land where there was plenty to eat, and everything respected, to a people that was laughing, making fun of her, and into a land where she had to glean in the field for what she ate. She would put it in her scarf and take it home, and beat it out to make some bread for her and her mother-in-law to eat.

Now she goes into the field to glean. Her mother-in-law told her, "We've got a kinsman, and his name is Boaz. He's a rich man and he's a near kinsman. You go to his field. Don't you go to another field; go to his field, and maybe, someday, you might find grace with him."

And one day, while she was out in the field, this rich young man, by the name of Boaz, a ruler, a wealthy man, came by and he saw her. Oh, when he saw her, he fell in love with her. He thought she was a wonderful woman. He liked her character.

You remember, he said, “I know and the people know, that thou art a virtuous woman.”

That’s what Boaz had seen in Ruth, that clean-cut decision, the virtue of the woman standing there, and he fell in love with her.

Boaz represented Christ, the rich Man, the heir of all things, the Lord of the harvest. Boaz came riding out there, in that carriage, looking around over the fields, and his eyes fell on Ruth! He was master. He was lord of the harvest, and she found grace in his sight.

That’s what the Church does today. While the Lord of the harvest is going by, He’s looking for individuals, men and women,

who are dedicated and have made a clean cut decision for Christ, and consecrated themselves to His service.

Now, then, Ruth was asked to do something that was disgraceful, but she was willing because she had made her decision.

Naomi said, “Go down, tonight. It’s barley season.”

Naomi and Ruth came in just at barley season. Barley season was bread season, the season when fresh bread was being served.

“Gird thy garments upon thee when you go to meet him. He’s going to winnow barley, tonight. Go down and put your garments on you. Cover yourself up, to meet him.”

Today, people want to uncover themselves. Cover yourself.

“Go down, because he winnows barley. And then mark the place where he lieth down.”

Did you do that? On Golgotha. Many years ago, I marked in my heart where He laid down His life, that He might take me.

Mark the place that he lieth down. Watch where He laid. That's what every believer should do. Mark what He's done for you.

She said, "Mark where he lies down. Then when he lies down to sleep, to rest, you go lie down by his feet." Not his head; his feet, unworthy. "And take the blanket that he was covered with, and pull it over you."

Mark where He lay, Calvary; where He laid down in the tomb; in Gethsemane. Mark, and crawl up to His feet. Lie down there and die to yourself.

Ruth said, "What you say, that I'll do."

She laid down.

Now, remember, that was a disgrace for that young widow woman to be lying by the side of this man, at his feet.

Now, he was the only one who could give her rest from the weary fields of gleaning. Oh, it was so sweet when Boaz found her out in the field. He said, “Look.” He said, “Who are you?”

She said, “My name is Ruth.”

“Oh, the Moabite that’s come to sojourn with us.”

“Yes.”

“I’ve heard of you. Don’t go to another field. Stay right here in my field. Stay with mine.” He loved her. “Stay here. Stay with me. Don’t go running around from place to place. Stay here.”

If you believe the Message, hang on to It. No matter what the price is, stay right with It.

He said, “Now, they’re not going to bother you, because I’ve commanded the young men not to insult you.”

Then he went to the young men, and said, “Now, she’s gleaning for life. Now, I want you reapers...you angels,” in other words. He said, “I want you angels, you reapers, every once in a while, to drop a handful, on purpose. Don’t let it all be so tiresome for her. But every once in a while, let her hear a good Message. Let a good power of the Holy Spirit cover Her over, once in a while, to let Her know that I’m still there. Do some kind of a healing amongst Her. Show some kind of a sign or a wonder, that She’ll know that I’m in Her midst.”

Don’t you like to find those handfuls? A handful of fresh barley. The Lord doing something that He used to do. Something that we know He does. He’s Lord of the Harvest. He’s the only One Who can drop the handful.

Now, here, she had to take on the disgraceful part, to lie down. She could be called an ill-famed woman, yet she wasn’t. She was

following exactly the rules that were laid down to her.

So she goes down and covers herself over, with the cover that he had on. Where'd she go? To the tomb. Where he was resting.

That's where I found it.

*Down at the cross where my Saviour died,
Down there for cleansing from sin I cried,
There to my heart was the Blood applied.*

Have you marked the place, so you can go there and lie down with Him, and say, "Lord, here I am"? Then what? Pull the same cover that was on Him, over you.

Then Ruth laid down, and took the blanket that was over him and pulled it over her.

The man woke up and said, "Who is there?"

She said, "I am Ruth, the Moabite, thy handmaid."

He raised up. He said, “I perceive and know that you’re a virtuous woman.”

And what did she answer back?

“Thou art a near kinsman. You can do for me. You can put me to rest. I’ve come here and laid here, not to be an immoral woman. I’ve laid here, not to be a show-off, but I’ve come here because you are a near kinsman. Not to show that I could do something big; but you’re my kinfolks. I’ve come because you’re near kinsman, and you’re the only one who can redeem me.”

Boaz said, “Thou art a virtuous woman. And I am thy near kinsman. Now, cover yourself up. Lie down until morning. Just cover up in that blanket. I’m your kinfolks. Lay there until morning, resting.”

When morning came, way before the break of day, she gathered up a great big bunch of barley, six measures, and put it in her little shawl and went home.

Naomi said, “My daughter. Rest Ruth, because the man will have no rest until he’s done the full price of redemption.”

He will not rest until He’s done the full price of redemption, to redeem you, everything that you ever lost, everything that you were.

Now remember the law of redemption is this - before a man could redeem a lost property, he had to be the nearest kinsman. The next thing, he had to be an upright man, a just man, to do it. Then he had to be worth enough money to do it, and he had to make a public testimony that he had done it. From then on, it was his property.

So now look. Boaz represented Christ, and Ruth represented the Church, you, the believer.

God became man. He had to become kinfolks. Knowing no sins, yet was a sinner because our sins were placed upon Him. He

became a sinner, that you might become a son of God.

Here He is, a Kinsman Redeemer. Now, the first thing, He had to be a worthy man. Who was any more worthy than Christ, than Jesus? Then, another thing, He had to have the money. He had to be able to do it. He owned the Heavens. He proved He did. He could take five loaves of bread and two fish, and feed five thousand and take up five basketfuls of fragments afterwards. He could pump water out of a well and turn it into wine. He could take a fish out of the ocean, and take coins of gold out of his mouth.

But He became poor, with not a place to lay His head. He became a Kinsman. Not a Kinsman to the rich; a Kinsman to all men. He took the place of a redeemer.

Then what did He have to do? He had to make a public testimony.

Naomi said, “Rest, Ruth. Everything will be all right now, because you’ve found grace in his sight.”

God, let me do that. Let me find grace in His sight. Resting now, waiting for the full redemption

Ruth said, “I took home a whole scarf-full of barley I got there.” Boaz gave it to her, measured it out, six measures.

Now we find, the next morning, when she woke up, she was happy, waiting. The man came and he went down, but he had another kinsman that really had option on the woman first.

That next one in the parable, that had option on you, was the devil, because you had sinned. First you belonged to him, because you’re his property and he could not redeem it. So, Christ came and was made man, to take away our sins, to redeem us. The devil

couldn't die for sins, because he was the very perverter that made sin.

So, the next morning, Boaz had to make a public testimony. He went down and met this man at the gate, before the elders. It had to be in a public place. He looked him in the face.

He said, "Can you redeem her?" Now, he had to first redeem Naomi, in order to get Ruth.

She had come in with Naomi, as an alien from another country. Remember, he had to get Naomi and when he got Naomi, he got all she had.

Now, Boaz said, "Can you redeem her?"

He said, "No."

Then he had to make a public testimony. He picked off his shoe, and threw it at him.

He said, "There you are. Let all Israel know that I have redeemed Naomi, and I also take

Ruth. I take Ruth for my bride.” Who was it? The lord of the harvest. “I redeem Naomi, and I get Ruth, and Ruth will be my bride.”

What’d they say? “May she be like Leah and Rachel and them, raise up thousands unto Israel. May she be that way.” He made public testimony.

What did Jesus do, to do it? He made a public testimony when Satan could not die for sins because he was the sinner. He’s the father of sin. But, Jesus, the innocent One, God of Heaven, Who didn’t have to die, came down and made a public testimony by dying - lifted up between heavens and earth. A public testimony; His clothes stripped off Him, and hung between heavens and earth in shame. He died, a sinful, shameful death, to redeem us. A public testimony!

Boaz took Ruth, and he married her. She brought forth a son called Obed. Obed was the father of Jesse. Jesse was the father of

David, who was the father of Christ, father of the Lord Jesus.

Now, what did they do? They got married, and through that came this great thing. Then Ruth was rewarded by getting Boaz for her husband.

Which, the Church is rewarded, when the Coming of the Lord shall come, on that bright and cloudless morning. We're resting, waiting now. It shall come.

Source:

60-1002 - The Kinsman Redeemer
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