Series: Reclaiming God’s Purpose

Ruth

March 24, 2019

Message 4:

**The Big Payoff**

Ruth 4

**Intro:** Review the story -

Chapter 1 - we learned some things about making good choices in hard times -

Chapter 2 -

Good character leads to great blessings -

Chapter 3 - How to get ourselves in line with God’s ultimate plan -

* Pay attention to advice from faithful experience.
* Surrender our lives to the Word of God.

Chapter 4 teaches us this:

**Big Idea: An eager desire pays any price to get what it wants.**

Naomi had an eager desire …

Ruth had an eager desire …

Boaz had an eager desire …

What is your greatest desire?

Let me explore this with 2 questions and 1 statement:

**> Who do we belong to?**

Ruth 4:1-6 - Boaz went to the town gate and took a seat there. Just then the family redeemer he had mentioned came by, so Boaz called out to him, “Come over here and sit down, friend. I want to talk to you.” So they sat down together. Then Boaz called ten leaders from the town and asked them to sit as witnesses. And Boaz said to the family redeemer, “You know Naomi, who came back from Moab. She is selling the land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. I thought I should speak to you about it so that you can redeem it if you wish. If you want the land, then buy it here in the presence of these witnesses. But if you don’t want it, let me know right away, because I am next in line to redeem it after you.”

 The man replied, “All right, I’ll redeem it.”

 Then Boaz told him, “Of course, your purchase of the land from Naomi also requires that you marry Ruth, the Moabite widow. That way she can have children who will carry on her husband’s name and keep the land in the family.”

 “Then I can’t redeem it,” the family redeemer replied, “because this might endanger my own estate. You redeem the land; I cannot do it.”

* The Mosaic law said that if a woman’s husband died, the next closest relative had to take that woman as his wife - to take care of her - it was taking another person on - another mouth to feed - in some cases more than one -
* Remember we talked about Boaz being a picture of Christ … Redeemer … As Boaz redeemed Ruth, paying a price to bring her into the family - Jesus redeemed us - paying a price to bring us into the family -
* As the land and Ruth would now belong to Boaz, so we today belong to Christ …

Paul … bondslave …

We were in slavery to sin … now set free by the One who redeemed us, free to serve Him and all that belongs to Him belongs to us!

Scrips … previously slaves to sin …

… Now heirs … Romans …

Notice - the other man couldn’t take both the land and Ruth or it would endanger what he already had.

You can’t do both - you can’t have two Masters … Jesus …

Light or darkness can’t exist together …

When we surrender to the Lordship of Jesus, we surrender all other allegiances and loyalties … Jesus is Lord of all, or not Lord at all.

**> How does possession take place?**

Ruth 4:7-12 - Now in those days it was the custom in Israel for anyone transferring a right of purchase to remove his sandal and hand it to the other party. This publicly validated the transaction. So the other family redeemer drew off his sandal as he said to Boaz, “You buy the land.”

 Then Boaz said to the elders and to the crowd standing around, “You are witnesses that today I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion, and Mahlon. And with the land I have acquired Ruth, the Moabite widow of Mahlon, to be my wife. This way she can have a son to carry on the family name of her dead husband and to inherit the family property here in his hometown. You are all witnesses today.”

 Then the elders and all the people standing in the gate replied, “We are witnesses! May the Lord make this woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, from whom all the nation of Israel descended! May you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. And may the Lord give you descendants by this young woman who will be like those of our ancestor Perez, the son of Tamar and Judah.”

Their method of transaction … there were witnesses …

Jesus came - paid the ultimate price - no negotiation, He just gave it all.

Boaz wanted Ruth - he wanted to help her - he wanted to redeem her - he wanted to save her -

Her life alone would be very hard - when Naomi died, it would be over for Ruth - she would have nothing - no rights - she would be completely lost -

He didn’t have to do this - he was willing to pay the price -

“With desire have I desired…” - Lue 22:15 - various translations -

Do a word study …

The Passover was a picture of the price …

***Pic of slaughtered lamb …***

No price was too great for Jesus to come get us.

If He would not have been willing, we would have nothing without Him - we would lose everything - we would be totally lost -

The transaction was public … witnesses …

* We are to witness this publicly - through baptism … public confession … acknowledge before men …

Example of redeeming a coupon … you’re not ashamed when you do that, are you? If so, you’re just losing money!

**> Redemption is a family business.**

Ruth 4:13-22 - So Boaz took Ruth into his home, and she became his wife. When he slept with her, the Lord enabled her to become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son. Then the women of the town said to Naomi, “Praise the Lord, who has now provided a redeemer for your family! May this child be famous in Israel. May he restore your youth and care for you in your old age. For he is the son of your daughter-in-law who loves you and has been better to you than seven sons!”

 Naomi took the baby and cuddled him to her breast. And she cared for him as if he were her own. The neighbor women said, “Now at last Naomi has a son again!” And they named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David.

 This is the genealogical record of their ancestor Perez:

Perez was the father of Hezron.

Hezron was the father of Ram.

Ram was the father of Amminadab.

Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.

Nahshon was the father of Salmon.

Salmon was the father of Boaz.

Boaz was the father of Obed.

Obed was the father of Jesse.

Jesse was the father of David.

Boaz was the Redeemer … He bought Ruth, all that was Naomi’s, to take care of them.

But their line led to the ultimate Redeemer …

Ruth’s reception of redemption led to others being redeemed in an even greater way!

Once we are redeemed, we are to lead the way for others to be redeemed …

Next Steps … get involved - get on a team - God has called you to ministry …

Everyone here in every place of ministry is playing a part and receives credit for each one who gives their life to the Lord …

Ephesians 4:12 -

Next Steps opening prayer Scripture …

I have joked about being in the “family business”…

It’s amazing how this works - in many different vocations …

But once we have been redeemed by Jesus, we are His, we are all in this family business.

What’s your role? How are you leading to others being redeemed?

Jesus paid a price - He paid it all … are we paying a price?

Are we giving our lives so that others can receive this redemption also>

Examples of those who gave their lives …

* Missionaries packing their belongings in coffins …
* Jim Elliot and friends …

Not everyone is called to that … Sharon and I went … came back …

But - whether you are in full-time ministry or not - have you said, “Lord, I go where you want me to go … anything … anytime … anywhere …”

Maybe you’re doing that now - are you? What’s your commitment?

Remember the commitment of Ruth from chapter 1 … clung … don’t ask me to leave …

Song: I Am Redeemed ?