

RUTH'S REWARD
Ruth 4
May 14, 2006 – Grace Covenant Baptist Church

I. The Redeemer God Provides (4:1-12)

1. A committed redeemer (vv. 1-10)

a. Boaz' initiates the procedure of *goel* – the land (vv. 1-4)

b. Boaz' initiates the procedure of *levir* – the family name (vv. 5-6)

c. The closing of the deal (vv. 7-8)

d. Boaz' clarifies the deal (vv. 9-10)

Application:

(1) The unnamed man (*peloni'almoni* – “Mr. So-and-So”)

Mr. So-and-So carefully evaluated the situation from his perspective. While the purchase of Naomi's land was a no-brainer from a profit-and-loss standpoint, the added burden of caring for two women presented an investment nightmare. If there were to be a child from the relationship with Ruth, the redeemer would lose the field to the child and there would be no benefit to his own children and estate to compensate for the costs involved in taking care of Naomi, Ruth, and the expanded family. So in the end, this was not a wise business deal for Mr. So-and-So. He remains unnamed because of his failure to act as the redeemer.

Mr. So-and-So serves as a reminder to us of the importance of evaluating all things in light of God's purposes. We often analyze things in much the same way as he did. We weigh this and we weigh that and make a decision on serving God based on whether or not it will benefit us in the long run. This is not to say that we should not carefully consider things along the way. In Luke 14 we read of Jesus' test of discipleship.

Read Luke 14:28-32 – context v. 27

Mr. So-and-So examined the cost and saw that he would not be able to finish the tower or win the battle. However, he left God out of the equation. We can easily fall into the same error. As one writer put it, “We calculate and protect ourselves and insist that two plus two can only ever equal four... and we may never know the blessing that we have lost” [Iain Duguid, *Esther & Ruth*, 183].

(2) Boaz' wisdom and honesty in the deal

Boaz is open and forthright in all of his dealings. Some might look at Boaz' actions and say that he was being somewhat manipulative in his approach. But Boaz is very careful in the way he approaches Mr. So-and-So. His intent was not to manipulate the situation in his favor because of his desire for Ruth, but to carefully distinguish between the role of both the

goel and the *levir*. This he does masterfully. As we have noticed, Mr. So-and-So was more than ready to act as the *goel* but denied his role as the *levir*. In the way that Boaz presented it, there could be no doubt in the minds of the witnesses.

We learn from Boaz that honesty is always the best pursuit in our dealings as well. We must take great care in understanding our motives, whether it be in our discussions on theology or in our everyday interests. Are we serving the Lord's commands or are we seeking to serve ourselves? Boaz' interests are immediately made plain to all that were there as witnesses. He gave Mr. So-and-So the opportunity. In the event that this man turned down his role as kinsmen-redeemer, then he, as next in line, was more than ready to fulfill the role. There could be no misunderstanding of Boaz' intentions. We too must take the time and the effort to make sure that we are not misunderstood in our dealings. Sometimes, we need to involve witnesses as an accountability for our actions. Boaz was completely above board in his dealings and we should learn from his example.

2. A blessing received (vv.11-12)

II. The Kingdom God Maintains (4:13-22)

1. Filling the emptiness (vv. 13-17)

Read 1:1-5; 21... then,

4:13-17

Who do the women say that the child was born for? NAOMI!

2. Continuing the kingdom (vv. 18-22)

This is not just a nice private family story but an episode in the prime line of the kingdom of God.

Here is something neither we nor Naomi & Co. could ever see. Here is the perspective most of us never have on our afflictions. Here we see that famine, triple grief, destitution, unexplainable conversions, etc., = the way God was establishing his kingdom in the world. [Ralph Davis, class notes, Old Testament]