

## **His Bright Designs (Ruth 4)**

**Introduction:** *God and His Redeemer make all the difference*

The book begins with famine and ends with a harvest. It begins in poverty, it ends in riches. It begins with sorrow. It ends with joy. It begins with loneliness. It ends with a family. It begins with despair, it ends with bright hope. It begins with death, and ends with life. It begins with a widow. It ends with a mother. And it's God and His Redeemer who makes all the difference.

### **1. The Cost of Redemption (1-6)**

The great irony is that in seeking to protect his family's legacy in this way, this man ended up forgotten, nameless, missing out on the biggest legacy of all—a place in the family line of Jesus Christ. Our Redeemer similarly says, *"I will redeem you freely, though it is costly to me"* (see 1 Pet 1:18-19). Redemption is costly. There is a price that has to be paid. There is a loss that has to be endured. That points us to him who gave not silver and gold, but his own blood so that we might be redeemed. Just like this nameless man, we often think, "What's in it for me? The Book of Ruth reminds us that we're to live our lives on different principles. We're not to be selfish, cold, and calculating.

### **2. The Work of Redemption**

All that Ruth has done is say, "You are God's appointed redeemer. I need you to redeem me." From then on, everything was in the hand of Boaz. He took the initiative. He devised the plan. He carried it out. The whole process was in his hands from first to last. It's as though the Redeemer says, *"Your redemption is entirely my work."*

### **3. The Grace of Redemption**

Boaz didn't help her because he was under obligation. He helped her because he had compassion, loyalty to God, and love. He chose to help her. *Your redemption is of free grace.*

### **4. The Pledge of Redemption (v. 7-8)**

Ephesians 1:13-14, "In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory." *Your redemption is absolutely sure and certain.*

### **5. The Purpose of Redemption (v. 18-22)**

What looked like a simple story of a poor widowed foreigner being redeemed and provided for turns out to be God's way of meeting a far greater need for the whole world—and for us. *Our redemption involves God's great purposes in the world.* "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham ... Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the King" (Matt 1:1-6).

## **Conclusion**

In everyday life, there are certain defining moments, though we don't realize them. There are key crossroads, where we have to make a choice like the one that Scott Peck describes—a choice between going down the path everyone else is following or taking another path, the path he called "the road less traveled." Peck recalls that he chose the road less traveled, "and that has made all the difference." Let us do the same.