

Subject: *The Romance of Redemption*

Scripture: *Ruth 3:1-6*

Naomi was Ruth's mother-in-law and here she plays the matchmaker. It is a beautiful love story that pictures the love of Christ as our Savior and Redeemer. So far we have seen the story unfold in chapters 1-2 like this:

1. A famine
2. A family
3. Three funerals
4. A farewell and a following
5. A field
6. A fellow

Two customs were at work in this story: 1) the law of gleaning (leftovers) and 2) the law of the kinsman-redeemer.

1. Naomi's Advice (vs. 1-4)

We see evidence of a woman's intuition as Naomi advises Ruth her daughter-in-law about the way to approach Boaz. Naomi knew that Ruth's future and her family were at stake. The background for the story is found in Deut. 25:5-10. The Hebrew word for "rest" (3:1) means "a safe shelter." Marriage would be a safe haven for Ruth, and it should be for any woman. It should be one of the great blessings of life. Naomi knew that Boaz was related to the family, he was single, and he was rich, so she came up with a plan to hitch him and Ruth. She knew Boaz was the right person, the threshing floor was the right place, and she came up with the right plan. She gave Ruth some great advice (vs. 3): clean up; smell good; dress up; and wait till after he eats supper. Then show Boaz that you want him to act as your kinsman-redeemer.

2. Ruth's Approach (vs. 5-9)

She followed Naomi's advice to the letter. Her approach to Boaz was soft and careful. She came humbly and sincerely. She asked, "Claim me as your wife." To spread his skirt (garment) over her meant that he promised to marry her, just as the Lord spread His garment over Israel and entered into a covenant with His chosen people, *Ezekiel 16:8* *Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.*

3. Boaz's Acceptance (vs. 10-15)

Boaz was honored by her request and welcomed the opportunity to be her husband. There was only one problem (vs. 12), someone who was a closer relative and had the first right to redeem Ruth. How did Boaz know that? He had done his homework because he obviously loved Ruth. He was motivated by love, not duty. He sent Ruth home with more supplies for her and Naomi.

4. Naomi's Assurance (vs. 16-18)

Ruth gave Naomi a full report, and when she heard it, she assured Ruth that everything would be alright. After we've done what God wants us to do, we need to be like Ruth. We need to sit still and wait for God to finish the job. We can rest in His plan and faithfulness. Ruth asked Boaz to be her redeemer. Have you asked Jesus to be your Redeemer?