

## “Deal or No Deal: God’s Kindness in Our Savvy”

Ruth 4: 1-12

### Boaz Marries Ruth

<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat there. When the kinsman-redeemer he had mentioned came along, Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down.

<sup>2</sup> Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so. <sup>3</sup> Then he said to the kinsman-redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our brother Elimelech. <sup>4</sup> I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line."

"I will redeem it," he said.

<sup>5</sup> Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi and from Ruth the Moabitess, you acquire the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property."

<sup>6</sup> At this, the kinsman-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it."

<sup>7</sup> (Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.)

<sup>8</sup> So the kinsman-redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it yourself." And he removed his sandal.

<sup>9</sup> Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion and Mahlon. <sup>10</sup> I have also acquired Ruth the Moabitess, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from the town records. Today you are witnesses!"

<sup>11</sup> Then the elders and all those at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. <sup>12</sup> Through the offspring the LORD gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah."

(Ruth 4: 1-12 NIV)

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**Spiritual truths gleaned from:**

**Boaz:**

**Mr. So-and-So:**

**Ruth:**

The Gospel in Ruth:

**Boaz Resembles Jesus** ~ Through Boaz comes Jesus ultimately.

He is our "glorious Boaz" - Charles Haddon Spurgeon

1. Just as Boaz was a near kinsmen-redeemer to Ruth, so Jesus, in becoming fully human, made Himself like us and near to us.
  2. Just as Boaz was able to redeem Ruth, so Jesus, in His sinlessness, was able to redeem us from sin.
  3. Just as Boaz was willing to redeem Ruth, so Jesus is willing to redeem us, choosing to accept us just as we are because of His great love for all.
  4. Just as Boaz paid the price to redeem Ruth, so Jesus paid the price, shedding His own blood on the cross to redeem us.
  5. Just as Boaz did all the work to redeem Ruth, so Jesus has done all the work to secure our salvation, which we receive by pure grace. We cannot earn our salvation.
  6. Just as Boaz loved his bride, so Jesus has loved His bride, the church.
  7. Just as Boaz redeemed both Ruth and the land, so us has redeemed both his people and all of creation.
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**Ruth 4: 1-12**

**Questions for Personal Reflection or Group Discussion:**

1. Consider the choices a. Boaz makes b. Mr. So-and-So (nearer kinsman-redeemer) makes. What do you learn about each man's values, motives and priorities?
  2. Why did Boaz go through the trouble of informing the close kinsman of his obligation? Why is it important that Boaz did this by the book?
  3. On the other hand, what reward and name recognition does Boaz receive for his taking risk and action for Naomi and Ruth? (Ruth 4: 18-22; Matthew 1:5-16)
  4. Remember and contrast the lives and spiritual consequences of the action or inaction of the three key men mentioned in Ruth: Elimelech, Boaz, Mr. So-and-so. What principles can men take away from their lives?
  5. What does Boaz's life teach about the place in our spirituality for our human savvy, shrewdness, and quick-wittedness? About God's responsibility and our responsibility in working out God's plans?
  6. How is the blessing of the elders eventually fulfilled?
  7. Reflect on the character of God and the elements of the Gospel you see in this passage. Pray that this Scripture transform your life and renew your mind.
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