

Kindness Restores

(Ruth 4:1-22)

Yearly Theme: *“Love Is...”*

Series Title: *Random Acts of Kindness*

February 24th, 2019

Something to think about:

Today we approach the subject of restoration and redemption in the final chapter in the story of Ruth. As we conclude this series today, we are able not only to see how God resolved Naomi and Ruth’s hopeless situation, we see how a revelation of God’s loving-kindness can restore hope and joy beyond our wildest imaginations. Today, we witness the redemption of a kind and loving God who desires our best, not our worst.

Dr. J. Elder Cumming contended that, “in almost every case the beginning of new blessing is a new revelation of the character of God – more beautiful, more wonderful, more precious.”¹ This is the conclusion of Ruth and Naomi’s story.

Read along: Ruth 4:1-22 (NLT)

Before we jump in to the details of this passage, the main point that we can take away from these 22 verses is...

Key Point: “True kindness has redeeming qualities: It heals what is broken and restores what is lost.”

How does the story of redemption and restoration unfold in this concluding narrative? Let’s take a look...

1. Boaz redeemed Ruth.

Ruth 4:9-10 (NLT),⁹ 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.¹⁰ 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.”

2. Obed redeemed Naomi.

Ruth 4:14-17 (NLT),¹⁴ 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.¹⁵ 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!”¹⁶ Naomi took the baby and cuddled him to her breast. And she cared for him as if he were her own.¹⁷ The neighbor women said, “Now at last Naomi has a son again!”

3. Jesus redeems those who believe in Him.

Ruth 4:22 (NLT), Obed was the father of Jesse. Jesse was the father of David.

... and David was a father of the coming Messiah: Jesus.

Isaiah 59:20-21 (NLT),²⁰ “The Redeemer will come to Jerusalem to buy back those in Israel who have turned from their sins,” says the LORD.²¹ “And this is my covenant with them,” says the LORD. “My Spirit will not leave them, and neither will these words I have given you. They will be on your lips and on the lips of your children and your children’s children forever. I, the LORD, have spoken!

Something to take home:

In this season of focusing God’s Love, and our love for our neighbor, it’s important for us to remember that *“Love is Kind!”* And, with the conclusion of the story of Ruth we’ve seen how kindness can break through so many barriers to existence in this broken and fallen world. As we close today, let’s remember that “God is Love,” and “Love is Kind,” and...

Key Point: “True kindness has redeeming qualities: It heals what is broken and restores what is lost.”

¹ J.O. Sanders, *Enjoying Intimacy with God*, (Moody: Chicago, Illinois), 14.

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KICK STARTERS:

⇒ What does it mean to “restore” something? What does it mean to “redeem” something?

⇒ Have you ever restored or redeemed something of value to you? If so, what?

SCRIPTURE: (Before studying this material, consider listening to the corresponding message online at: <http://www.northmaincog.org/media/sermon-media>)

Ruth 4:1-22 (NLT)

¹ 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. ² Then Boaz called ten leaders from the town and asked them to sit as witnesses. ³ 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. ⁴ 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.”

⁵ 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.”

⁶ “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.”

⁷ 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. ⁸ So the other family redeemer drew off his sandal as he said to Boaz, “You buy the land.”

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.”

¹¹ 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. ¹² 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.”

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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!”

¹⁶ Naomi took the baby and cuddled him to her breast. And she cared for him as if he were her own. ¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ This is the genealogical record of their ancestor Perez:

Perez was the father of Hezron.

¹⁹ Hezron was the father of Ram.

Ram was the father of Amminadab.

²⁰ Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.

Nahshon was the father of Salmon.

²¹ Salmon was the father of Boaz.

Boaz was the father of Obed.

²² Obed was the father of Jesse.

Jesse was the father of David.

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. As we close out the series on Ruth, explain what is going on in this final passage of Scripture.

2. What was the process by which Boaz “redeemed” Ruth (vv. 1-12)? What did the law say about a widow who was refused by a family redeemer (Deuteronomy 25:7-10)?

3. When Boaz redeemed/married Ruth she was still able to have children. What happened as a result of marriage between Boaz and Ruth (v. 13)?

4. Through the birth of a grandchild, Naomi was blessed and her family line restore because she had an heir that would carry on husband and sons names. How did the birth of Obed restore and redeem Naomi (vv. 14-17)?

5. There is a short genealogical list of names that bears significance at the end of this passage (vv. 18-22). What is the significance of this list, and how did this change Naomi’s status from one of bitterness (i.e., Ruth 1:20-21) to one of blessedness?

4. There are countless stories throughout the Bible of God’s redemption and restoration of people from hopeless and desperate situations (e.g., Abraham and Sarah from barrenness to having a child in their old age, Joseph’s imprisonment in Egypt to being second in command only to Pharaoh, the Israelites trapped between the Red Sea and Pharaoh’s army and the parting of the Red Sea and deliverance of the Israelite people to safety). Does God still restore and redeem today? Give some specific examples of this happening today...

5. Obed was the child that came through the marital union of Boaz and Ruth (v. 13). Who would come from the line of Obed and why is this significant? Who was David and why is he important to the Biblical narrative of redemption?

6. David would come through the line of Obed who was born to Boaz and Ruth, and Jesus would come from the line of David? How blessed was Naomi to have the Messiah (Jesus) come from her lineage? How blessed are we that Jesus came to set us free from sin and death through His death on the cross and the empty tomb? How does Jesus death and resurrection redeem people?

SELF-EVALUATION/APPLICATION:

⇒ **IT’S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER** “God is Love” and “Love is Kind.”

⇒ **HOW ARE YOU TRUSTING GOD TODAY?** Though your situation may be dire and desperate, are you leaning in to Him and trusting Him? Do you trust and believe that redemption and restoration came through Jesus? Are you willing to believe in Him and surrender everything to Him in order to be blessed? Are you treating others with loving kindness the way that God has given us Jesus through one of the kindest acts of love the world has ever known?

⇒ **MEMORY VERSE:** *Ruth 4:17 and Romans 5:18-19.*