

Note from Kathy

Boaz was a man of great means. He owned fields and had many employees. But what does that amount to if it is not used for some higher purpose and plan. Boaz was not only a man with exceptional business skills, but he invested in the lives of others. Let's consider carefully all God has blessed us with then look for ways to follow this example.

Observation

Before you begin this lesson, pray, asking your heavenly Father to show you what he wants you to understand and apply to your life from this chapter of Ruth.

1. The scene opened with Boaz walking up to the gate of the city. This was the place where men conducted business. It was the center for many important conversations. Scripture says he sat down; who came by at that very time?
2. Boaz invited his relative to sit down and talk. Who else was invited to join them?
3. Boaz presented a business deal to his relative in the presence of these 10 witnesses. What are the facts presented in verses 3-4?
4. What was the response of this relative?
5. What final detail did Boaz bring up at just the right moment, which shed new light on this purchase of property?
6. After hearing the requirements for taking this property what did this relative say? We will discuss some of the possible reasons why he would have changed his mind at this news, but it is enough right now just to list his reason given.
7. What was the last step taken to seal this deal?
8. Which of Naomi's two sons had Ruth married? Interestingly, this fact was not mentioned in Ruth 1. _____

"This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

²Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

³Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram,

⁴Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon,

Nahshon the father of Salmon,

⁵Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,

Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,

⁷Solomon the father of Rehoboam,

Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa,

⁸Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,

Jehoram the father of Uzziah,

⁹Uzziah the father of Jotham,

Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

¹⁰Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,

Manasseh the father of Amon,

Amon the father of Josiah,

¹¹and Josiah the father of Jeconiah^[e] and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

¹²After the exile to Babylon:

Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,

Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

¹³Zerubbabel the father of Abihud,

Abihud the father of Eliakim,

Eliakim the father of Azor,

¹⁴Azor the father of Zadok,

Zadok the father of Akim,

Akim the father of Elihud,

¹⁵Elihud the father of Eleazar,

Eleazar the father of Matthan,

Matthan the father of Jacob,

¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph,

the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

¹⁷Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

9. Boaz reminds the elders that they are witnesses to this transaction. What was their response? Was it a mere "yes, we heard the details," or did they get personally involved in the matter?
10. Boaz wasted no time taking his beloved Ruth for his own. What gift did the Lord give them?
11. The women of the city rejoiced with Naomi. What fact were they rejoicing over?
12. What did they name this very special baby boy? _____ His name means "serving" or "the servant of the Lord." He may be just a newborn at this point, but what kind of man are they asking God to help him grow up to be?
13. Whose genealogy is listed in verses 18-22? _____ Why is this genealogy so important? You might want to read Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-37.

Application

1. The book of Ruth opened with three funerals but it ends with a beautiful wedding and a precious baby boy. Psalm 30:5 says, "...weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning." What is the most common ending for a good love story? "And they lived _____." Would you say the book of Ruth could end with these words?
2. As you studied Ruth 4, were you able to see the hand of the Lord moving on behalf of Naomi and Ruth? Are you able to see God's hand moving on your behalf? Why not share a time you recall God moving in your life, with your small group.
3. Deuteronomy 19:15 instructed the Israelites how to settle even the most important of matters, the death penalty. "One witness is not enough to convict anyone accused of any crime or offense they may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses." Why do you suppose Boaz assembled such a large group? What types of things require witnesses today? Think of a time you went to great lengths to establish something very important to you. Did you have it witnessed?

More on Property Rights

▲ According to Genesis 12, 15, and 17 the land was given as part of God's everlasting covenant with Abraham and his descendants.

Leviticus 25:23

"The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants."

Leviticus 25:25-28

"If one of your fellow Israelites becomes poor and sells some of their property, their nearest relative is to come and redeem what they have sold. ²⁶If, however, there is no one to redeem it for them but later on they prosper and acquire sufficient means to redeem it themselves, ²⁷they are to determine the value for the years since they sold it and refund the balance to the one to whom they sold it; they can then go back to their own property. ²⁸But if they do not acquire the means to repay, what was sold will remain in the possession of the buyer until the Year of Jubilee. It will be returned in the Jubilee, and they can then go back to their property."

▲ The Year of Jubilee was celebrated by the Jews every 50th year.

Leviticus 25:10

"During this year all property that has been sold shall be restored to the original owner or the descendants."

3. Do you suppose Naomi's property was really that significant? The relative did not seem to have any doubts about his ability to pay for it. Neither did he get that excited about missing out on it. Can you recall a situation where you wanted something until you realized all the details and ramifications of saying yes?
4. How would you describe the relationship between Naomi and Ruth? Could this be said about you and the way you treat your family members? What did they mean when they said Ruth was better to Naomi than seven sons?
5. What would you say you have learned from your study of Ruth? What is one thing you do not want to forget?
6. God was in charge of writing the story for Ruth and Naomi. It is filled with the love and faithfulness of God. Are you willing to trust God to write the ending to your story?
7. It is always good to stop and focus on the Lord. What did you learn about our loving heavenly Father during your studying of Ruth? It may not be something new to you; this study may simply have shined a bright light on it once again.
8. Choosing the right people to spend time with is important for our walk of faith. Good friends point us to our good God with their words and their actions. Would you say you have been changed by your time studying our precious friend Ruth?
9. Boaz was a near relative of Naomi's, which put him in right standing to be their kinsman-redeemer. He was financially able; he was unmarried; and he was willing to step up and pay the price. This is a beautiful picture of what our Lord Jesus Christ did for us. How did Jesus fulfill all of these for us?

Ephesians 2:8-9

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."

10. The gift of our salvation is free to us but not without cost. Would you say you are living in such a way that reflects the great gift you have been given?
11. A gift is just that, it is a gift. Salvation is God's gift to us, which he gave us at great expense. How are you at receiving a gift? How comfortable are you with this thought, or would you rather have some steps or deeds that must be done to merit it? If so, you will be very frustrated because there is nothing we can do to earn or merit salvation.
12. Have you received this gift of salvation? If not, it is available. But just like any gift it must be received, opened, used, and enjoyed, or it is wasted.
13. Or perhaps you have accepted this wonderful life-changing gift, and yet, you think you must continue earning it or fear by some of your actions you might lose it. Jesus addressed this in John 6:47, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life."* Notice he did not say might have, or is in line for. No, placing our trust and faith in Jesus' finished work on the cross is the only requirement. Jesus paid our sin debt by dying in our place; the just for the unjust, to reconcile us to God. Dr. D. James Kennedy used to say, "Everything I do after that (his salvation) is just one big thank you for all he has done for me." What will be your expression of gratitude today?
14. Ask the Lord to show you at least one opportunity to share something you have seen in this study of Ruth with someone else. Be prepared to give a brief report to our small group. We each have a vast area of influence; do not give up too quickly on this assignment.
15. Ruth's baby was named Obed, which means "servant." Do you now what your name means? My name, Kathryn, likely originated with the Greek word *katharos*, which translated as "pure" or "clean" in the *New Testament*. Just writing this down reminds me of the need for greater focus in my daily activities. If we claim the name Christian, are we living up to it? This name means Christ-follower. The question is: are we really following Christ? Are we focused on him and going where he leads? Is he truly our fortress and our rock? Is he our Savior and King? If the answer is yes, then we should live in such a way that this can be seen. Try to find the meaning of your name, so you can share it with your small group.

Psalms 19:14

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer."