

Meditations from the Book of Ruth Part 13

We will continue in this message what we had started meditating from the book of Ruth.

“1 Then went Boaz up to the gate, and sat him down there: and, behold, the kinsman of whom Boaz spake came by; unto whom he said, Ho, such a one! turn aside, sit down here. And he turned aside, and sat down.” (Ruth 4:1 KJV) Here Boaz went to the city gate and sat down there, as if he was waiting for the kinsman to go there. As if the kinsman was coming to that important place, and is a point for all the noble men of the city to come to the city gate. The same today in the New Testament church, the people of God would pass through God’s church and expected that they are taking part in the affairs of the church.

“unto whom he said, Ho, such a one! turn aside, sit down here.” Here Boaz called the man and he did not mention his name, but called him, ***“Ho”***, as if he was avoiding mentioning his name, to avoid embarrassing him especially he might not be willing to accept the transaction that Boaz going to propose for him to do his duty toward Naomi and Ruth and that will be a disgrace for him. He called him, ***“such a one!”*** to get his attention and then told him ***“turn aside”*** asking him to turn his direction and to ***“sit down here”*** so he was giving him an idea that there was something to be opened up to be dealt with.

In ***Ruth 3:13*** Boaz said to Ruth, ***“Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, as the LORD liveth: lie down until the morning.” (Ruth 3:13 KJV)*** Some think, that the word ***‘Tob’***, the translation of the word ***‘well’*** in the verse, is the name of the kinsman. They suggested that his name is either Tob or Tobia. Some suggested that Salmon (who was the father of Boaz), and Elimelech (the father of Mahlon, Ruth's husband), and Tob or Tobia (this near kinsman), were brethren.

“And he turned aside, and sat down.” The man obeyed and came and sat down, realizing there is something to be done.

“2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, Sit ye down here. And they sat down.” (Ruth 4:2 KJV) Now Boaz took ten elders from the city, they will be witnesses of what will take place and to determine the right decision and what is needed to be done. Boaz was arranging the meeting, bringing the right people who should get involved in the process of the decision making. The number of ten was needed to witness such an important event to sell the land and to proclaim the marriage. The ten people, they could be the leaders of thousands, five hundreds, hundreds, fifties or tens.

“3 And he said unto the kinsman, Naomi, that is come again out of the country of Moab, selleth a parcel of land, which was our brother Elimelech's:” (Ruth 4:3 KJV) Here Boaz announced to the kinsman that Naomi the widow of their Brother Elimelech who came from Moab is selling a piece of land of Elimelech. With this information that Boaz announced it means that he was approached first by the family of Elimelech to buy the land.

“4 And I thought to advertise thee, saying, Buy it before the inhabitants, and before the elders of my people. If thou wilt redeem it, redeem it: but if thou wilt not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know: for there is none to redeem it beside thee; and I am after thee. And he said, I will redeem it.” (Ruth 4:4 KJV) Here Boaz advertised to the near kinsman redeemer about the land. He told him, ***“I thought to advertise thee,”*** he expressed to him what he was thinking. It is holiness and purity to have express of what you are thinking to the people whom you will come in contact with and whom you are in dealing with. Boaz had nothing to hide from that man. Boaz was a man who trusted God and who was relying fully on the Lord and on His leading. He told him straightly, ***“saying, Buy it before the inhabitants, and before the elders of my people. If thou wilt redeem it, redeem it: but if thou wilt not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know: for there is none to redeem it beside thee; and I am after thee. And he said, I will redeem it.”*** The man when he heard Boaz and the good offer that was offered to him, he agreed to redeem it. He was happy that a piece of land will be added to his property. Boaz was so pure and gave him the right to redeem because he was ahead of him and Boaz did not want to grab someone else opportunity to receive a blessing. Boaz did that before the inhabitants of the land and before the elders of the people. It seems in what Boaz was talking everything was transparent and the elders of the people dealt with the issues there with complete openness.

The kinsman was happy to buy because he had money and since the poor Naomi was selling the land, he was more than happy to buy it and in such a way he was helping her as we can read, ***“If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold.” (Leviticus 25:25 KJV)*** ***We should be glad to help when we have; the more now to help those who are of the family of faith.***

Also he might be happy to buy it expecting since Naomi was selling it, and being a widow, she will be selling it out of her need, so he was expecting to get it with a cheaper price than usual; so that might be another reason why he immediately agreed to buy it.

“5 Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy it also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance.” (Ruth 4:5 KJV) Now here Boaz, after the kinsman redeemer agreed to redeem, he further told him that he needed also to buy the land from ***“Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance.”*** Here he informed him, that he needed not only to buy the land from Naomi but as well as to buy it from Ruth, and that entail on him to marry Ruth the widow, so that the name of the dead will be raised upon his inheritance. He was requested to marry Ruth so that the first born will be called upon the name of the dead so that the name of the dead will not disappear. This was to be done based on this Scripture as we read here, ***“5 If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her. 6 And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother which is dead, that his name be not put out of Israel. 7 And if the man like not to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate unto the elders, and say, My husband's brother refuseth to raise up unto his brother a name in Israel, he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother. 8 Then the elders of his city shall call him, and speak unto him: and if he stand to it, and say, I like not to take***

her; 9 Then shall his brother's wife come unto him in the presence of the elders, and loose his shoe from off his foot, and spit in his face, and shall answer and say, So shall it be done unto that man that will not build up his brother's house. 10 And his name shall be called in Israel, The house of him that hath his shoe loosed.” (Deuteronomy 25:5-10 KJV) The wife of Mahlon, who was dead, the eldest son of Naomi, and so his widow, Ruth the Moabitess, had the rights of the estate; therefore the purchase must be made of her as well as of Naomi, and the purchase could not be made of her without marrying her; which, though no law obliged to, yet it seems to be a condition of the purchase said by Naomi, that she would sell it to no man unless he would consent to marry Ruth. Naomi was concerned for Ruth because Ruth was dutiful to Naomi and that caused Naomi to be affectionate toward Ruth. **See here how God was rewarding faithfulness, and now Naomi she was now fighting for her daughter in law to put her in a family although at the beginning she promised that she will not do that.**

That is why when Boaz called the man, he did not mention his name, because he did not want to put him in the corner and embarrassed him. He did not want his name to be bad spoken if he would not be willing to do the kinsman redeemer part. That is why Boaz offered him a help, that if he did not want to redeem it then he can redeem it instead of him. **See how Boaz did the things in orderly manner and in good spirit. We need to do things in orderly manner and in good spirit toward the people around us that God call us to interact with.**

Also of what Boaz said, **“What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy it also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance.” (Ruth 4:5 KJV)** It seems that this kinsman redeemer was not much oriented with the news around him and what was going on. He was not aware that Naomi came with Ruth the Moabites, the widow, and he was not aware of their story it seems.

Or it could be that he is not really called by God to do such. *** What we can learn from the events is that we need to trust God in our lives as we live our lives in honest way and desire to honor God and do His will. We need to trust Him, that He will neither leave us, nor forsake us and nor allow us to be put in an embarrassing condition more than what we can bear or expected from us to do. * Let us live our lives trusting Him that He will be with us in our lives to do the needful things and let us be gentle and considerate and well mannered in dealing with the issues of lives as Boaz dealt here with the kinsman.**

“6 And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it.” (Ruth 4:6 KJV) Here the man back out from his willingness to buy and redeem the land, and declared clearly that he cannot redeem, because he cannot marry the widow, for he was married and will endanger his estate, his family, and his new marriage will add more burden to him and to his financial needs if he was going to marry the widow. He asked Boaz to go ahead and to redeem it for himself and add the land to his land and marry Ruth the widow because Boaz was not married and he was without a family. **Multiple marriages are not only adultery but it is a financial burden on the man and on the children. Those who have second families they are in adultery and they are depriving their first families and children from receiving their rights.**

“7 Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbour: and this was a testimony in Israel.” (Ruth 4:7 KJV) Now here there is a procedure agreed upon to finalize the transaction of the redeeming. Here it is not clear who plucked off his shoe and gave it to his neighbour, Boaz or Tobia, as a testimony in Israel that the transaction had done. This procedure will finalize the transaction in front of the witnesses.

“8 Therefore the kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy it for thee. So he drew off his shoe.” (Ruth 4:8 KJV) Again here confirmed for the second time, that the kinsman redeemer was giving the permission to Boaz to buy the land for himself, but there is no Scriptural evidence that Ruth came and loose his shoe from off his foot, and spat in his face. It might not happened here and there was consideration because there is agreement between Boaz and the kinsman, as well as the kinsman was married and it is not a Godly thing to marry another woman and put himself into troubles, as well as we are aware that second marriages is adultery and is not of the will of God.

“9 And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.” (Ruth 4:9 KJV) Here now after the kinsman retreated back and gave the way for Boaz to go and redeem, Boaz announced first to the elders, that he bought from the hand of Naomi all what was for Elimelech and the things that belongs to his two sons Chilion and Mahlon. **Here we can learn from Boaz not to go forward and take things if the way is not yet clear. Here Boaz waited patiently and tactfully acted until the kinsman convinced that he cannot buy and redeem, and himself gave the way for Boaz to go forward and do it.**

“10 Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day.” (Ruth 4:10 KJV) Here also announced Boaz that he already purchased Ruth, the widow of Mahlon to be his wife so that the name of the dead will be raised up upon his inheritance, so that the name of the dead will not be cut from the family line. Here in the transaction it mentioned that this redemption of the land and this marriage was to keep the name of the dead, who are Elimelech, Mahlon and Chilion, and as the following: When Ruth went in and out upon the estate or inheritance, they would say, this was the widow of Mahlon, the brother of Chilion, the sons of Elimelech, and so through her name would be made mention of the following: **“that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of this place.”** So their names will not be forgotten in the city and in the court of Bethlehem, and will be kept remembered.

“Moreover Ruth the Moabitess,” Ruth being a Moabite was not allowed to enter the community of God as we read here, **“An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever.” (Deuteronomy 23:3 KJV)** But Ruth was become proselyte and converted to follow our God that is why she was acceptable for marriage.

“Ye are witnesses this day.” Here now came the rule of the ten elders that Boaz gathered to witness not only about the buying of the land but as well as on the marriage. As well as the people who were there gathered witnessed what took place of selling the land and getting the marriage done.

My dear and beloved: Let us apply what we learned from the message, and apply carefully in our lives. Let us be of pure heart and clean motive in all our conducts and doings, and do things in order. Let us be considerate to the people and gently deal with them in the way we approach them. Let us be transparent to the church and the church leaders and be willing to open important matters so they can council us and confirm to us of what we need to do.

My Prayer: *Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word and all what I learned in this message.*

Ask God forgiveness for being non considerate to others, rash, being non tactful in your dealings, taking advantage of people, non-faithful, and in non trusting God fully in your life. Lord forgive me and I repent from the following sins _____.

Lord I pray for my brothers and sisters who committed themselves to the principles of the message, Lord guide them and lead them into the good plan that you have for them. Lord help them to achieve your purpose in their lives. Lord let the purpose of sending this message be accomplish in the life your church and your people.

Lord bless us as a church and help us to implement your Word and the teaching we received in this message. Lord lead us to teach, admonish, guide and advice your people with your Word to do your good plans for them, that your will be accomplished. Lord help us to evangelize and make new disciples. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and helps us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us and enlarge our territory let your hands be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Meditation from the book of Ruth Part 13. Ruth 4:1-10. Ruth 3:13. Leviticus 25:25. Deuteronomy 25:5-10. Deuteronomy 23:3.

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