

Handfuls On Purpose

Studies in the Book of Ruth

Chapter Seven

Christ: Our Kinsman Redeemer

“And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband’s; a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name *was* Boaz” (Ruth 2:1).

In Ruth 2:1, we are introduced to the next character in the story of Ruth. His name is Boaz. The name means “in him is strength.” The meaning of the name refers specifically to the ability to redeem. Boaz is a type of Christ.

As we look at Boaz we will see him as a type of Christ our Redeemer, Who redeems out of love and grace rather than law and duty. Ruth represents every Christian as an individual and she represents the Church corporately. As the Church corporate, she is the Bride of Christ. Through the redemption of Ruth and Naomi, we will see how Christ fulfilled the law in our redemption.

In this chapter, we want to look at the extremes Jesus (the eternal Son of God) went in order to provide redemption to “whosoever will.” Leviticus chapter 25 tells us there were four basic requirements of the Law before a Redeemer could redeem the lost estate of a family member. It is in the fulfillment of these four requirements that the extremes of God’s love for us are so evidently seen. These are so rich in truth for us.

Requirement One: a redeemer must be a *kinsman* (Leviticus 25:48-49).

“⁴⁸ After that he is sold he may be redeemed again; one of his brethren may redeem him: ⁴⁹ Either his uncle, or his uncle’s son, may redeem him, or *any* that is nigh of kin unto him of his family may redeem him; or if he be able, he may redeem himself” (Leviticus 25:48-49).

In this requirement we are reminded of one of the most remarkable truths in the Bible. In order to redeem fallen mankind from the bondage of sin, the eternal Son of God became one of us. He became a man.

“³ Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: ⁴ But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, ⁵ To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons” (Galatians 4:3-5).

The words “fullness of time” take us all the way back to Genesis 3:15 when God made His first promise of a Redeemer.

“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel” (Genesis 3:15).

The emphasis of the “fullness of time” is that the creation was made pregnant with the promise of a Redeemer. In the birth of Jesus the time of delivery came to full term. God became a man through the common means of conception (yet uncommon, i.e., immaculate) and human birth (yet uncommon, i.e., virgin birth). The fact of incarnation is the most wonderful example of selfless love ever known to mankind.

⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:5-8).

The words “form of God” relate to us that Jesus Christ was an eternal, spiritual Being Who transcended time and space, is without a beginning or and ending, is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient. The words “thought it not robbery” reveal to us that the eternal Son of God did not selfishly cling to His Godhood.

The words “of no reputation” reveal that the eternal Son of God emptied Himself of His Godhood to become a common man without prestige, position or reputation. The words “was made” refer to His conception and birth. The words in the likeness of men” refers to His becoming one of mankind (“men” is plural).

We have no way of comprehending what it means to be God. Therefore, we have no way of comprehending the enormous love and sacrifice of the eternal Son of God when He became man. The Creator became part of His creation. What incomprehensible love.

Requirement Two: a redeemer must be *able* to pay the price of redemption (Leviticus 25:25-28)

²⁵ 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. ²⁶ And if the man have none to redeem it, and himself be able to redeem it; ²⁷ Then let him count the years of the sale thereof, and restore the overplus unto the man to whom he sold it; that he may return unto his possession. ²⁸ But if he be not able to restore *it* to him, then that which is sold shall remain in the hand of him that hath bought it until the year of jubile: and in the jubile it shall go out, and he shall return unto his possession” (Leviticus 25:25-28).

It is said of Boaz (Ruth 2:1) that he was a “mighty man of wealth.” Boaz was able to pay the price of redemption. Christ fulfills this requirement in that He was able to pay the God’s price of redemption. God’s price of redemption was the shedding of innocent blood.

“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission” (Hebrews 9:22).

¹⁸ Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold {a broad term referring to all the religious rituals of the Temple}, from your vain conversation {manner of life, meaning empty attempts at self-righteousness} *received* by tradition from your fathers {they did not come from God}; ¹⁹ But {you are redeemed} with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot . . . ” (I Peter 1:18-19).

God’s demand of blood as the price of redemption meant that Christ our Redeemer must die in order to redeem us from the bondage of sin.

²⁵ Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; ²⁶ For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: ²⁸ So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation” (Hebrews 9:25-28).

We cannot fathom the enormous cost of our redemption, nor can we fathom the statement of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane when He said, “Nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done” (Luke 22:42).

Requirement Three: he must be *willing* to redeem (Leviticus 25:35).

“And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt relieve him: *yea, though he be a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee*” (Leviticus 25:35).

Jesus Christ was willing to do what was needed to redeem lost mankind.

⁴ For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. ⁵ Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: ⁶ In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin thou hast had no pleasure. ⁷ Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. ⁸ Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and *offering* for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure *therein*; which are offered by the law; ⁹ Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. ¹⁰ By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*” (Hebrews 10:4-10).

The words “by the which will” in Hebrews 10:10 refer to both God’s will and the will of Jesus. Their wills were one (the same). Why was our redemption God’s will? Why would Jesus be willing to pay such an enormous price to redeem lost mankind? There is only one answer. Because He loves us with a love that goes beyond human comprehension.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Stop and think about this verse for a moment. Think about what it means when it says, “God so loved . . . that He gave His only begotten Son.” There is no greater love than this. Open yourself to it. The love of God is so great, He extends His loving hand of redemption to everyone and anyone, even to those shaking their fist in His face with every sin.

God’s love separated the sin from the sinner and laid the sin upon His Son at Calvary and paid the wages of every sin mankind would ever commit (Romans 3:23 and 1 John 2:2). In that the wages of sin were paid by the shedding of the Blood of Christ, God offers salvation as a gift of His grace to whosoever will believe the gospel and acknowledge Jesus to be Lord (Romans 10:9-13).

Requirement Four: he must be free from the need of redemption himself.

Jesus did not need redemption because He was both holy and sinless.

³⁴ Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? ³⁵ And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:34-35).

Jesus was no ordinary man. He was unique. He was holy and sinless. Yet He can identify with every temptation and weakness of mankind.

“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet without sin*” (Hebrews 4:15).

This holy and sinless God/man was executed for the sins of mankind as our substitute, the godly for the ungodly.

⁶ For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a

righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:6-8).

“While we were yet sinners.” Lost in our sin and condemned to eternal death, shaking our rebellious fists in the face of God with every transgression, the sinless One (Jesus “Christ”) “died for us.” Knowing all this, what must we do to be redeemed?

“¹³ Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: ¹⁴ That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (Galatians 3:13-14).

Christ’s redemption made salvation available. It is offered as a free gift from God.

“⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (**by** grace ye are saved;) {**by...:** or, by whose grace} ⁶ And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus: ⁷ That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:4-9).

Have you received the wonderful gift of God’s grace? Have you received the gift of salvation in the gift of a Saviour? Salvation is in a Person. The eternal Son of God, Jesus Christ needs to be received into your life. He is your Kinsman Redeemer.

“¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not. ¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he **power** {**power:** or, the right, or, privilege} to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:” (John 1:11-12).

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

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1. What does the name Boaz mean? _____
2. Who does Ruth represent individually? _____
3. Who does Ruth represent corporately? _____
4. List the four requirements of a Redeemer.
 - A. A Redeemer must be a _____.
 - B. A Redeemer must be _____ to pay the price of redemption.
 - C. A Redeemer must be _____ to redeem.
 - D. A Redeemer must be free from the _____ of redemption himself.
5. Read Galatians 4:4-5. In order to redeem mankind from the bondage of sin, what did God need to become? _____
6. Looking back to Genesis 3:15, God's creation was made *pregnant* with the promise of Messiah. From Galatians 4:4, how does the "fullness of time" relate to that promise? _____

7. Read Philippians 2:5-7. Explain the following statements:
 - A. "Form of God" _____

 - B. "Thought it not robbery" _____

 - C. "Of no reputation" _____

 - D. "Was made" _____

8. Read Hebrews 9:22. What was the price God put on redemption? _____
9. Read I Peter 1:18-19. What did that mean Jesus must do to pay that price? _____

 - A. Do you realize He did that for you? _____
 - B. From Hebrews 9:25-28, how many times did Christ have to pay the price of redemption? _____
 - C. If some forms of Christianity teach that Christ must be continually offered as a sacrifice in *Holy Communion* does that establish or deny the sufficiency of His redemption? _____
 - D. Do you believe that He was able to redeem you? _____
10. Read Hebrews 10:4-10. From verse 7, what does the whole of Scripture reveal to us about the purpose of Christ's coming? _____
 - A. From verse 10, whose will was "the which will"? _____
 - B. Was Jesus willing to redeem you? _____

11. Why would Christ be willing to pay such an enormous price to redeem us (see John 3:16)? _____

12. What two things must we try to comprehend, before we will ever be able to comprehend the depth of God's love for us?
A. _____
B. _____
13. Read Luke 1:35. What does the word "holy" signify to you about Jesus Christ? _____

14. Read Hebrews 4:15. Why can Jesus identify with the "feeling" of our sinful weaknesses? _____

15. From Hebrews 4:15, what is unique about Jesus regarding temptation that cannot be said of any other human being? _____
16. Read Romans 5:6-8. From verse 6 who are the "ungodly"? _____
17. What were the "ungodly . . . without" that necessitated Jesus dying for them? _____

18. From Galatians 3:13-14, through what means do we "receive the promise of the Spirit"? _____

19. Have you personally received the free gift of God's redemption in Jesus Christ? _____
20. Read Ephesians 2:8-9. What is the *hand* (means) by which we receive the free gift of God's salvation "by grace"? _____
21. Read John 1:11-12. What can anyone call himself who has received the "power" (authority) to do so because he has received Jesus Christ? _____