

Handfuls On Purpose

Studies in the Book of Ruth

Chapter Sixteen

Claiming Redemption by Claiming Our Redeemer

“¹ Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee? ² And now *is* not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor. ³ Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: *but* make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking. ⁴ And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and **uncover** {lift up the clothes that are on} his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do. ⁵ And she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do. ⁶ And she went down unto the floor, and did according to all that her mother in law bade her. ⁷ And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down. ⁸ And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet. ⁹ And he said, Who *art* thou? And she answered, I *am* Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou *art* a **near kinsman**. {one that hath right to redeem} ¹⁰ And he said, Blessed *be* thou of the LORD, my daughter: *for* thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich. ¹¹ And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou *art* a virtuous woman” (Ruth 3:1-11).

How to get saved is one of the most misunderstood doctrines in the Bible. For some people salvation is something they earn through good deeds. For others salvation is something they think they deserve because of things they have done (or have not done). Many others think salvation is some type of mystical or spiritual enlightenment that just happens to them at the end of a quest for some special knowledge or event in their life. Christ understood the confusion that would evolve regarding salvation. He gave the following warning:

“²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. ²⁴ Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: ²⁵ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. ²⁶ And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: ²⁷ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it” (Matthew 7:21-27).

The Bible clearly teaches that salvation is not something we can *earn*, or something we *deserve*, or something that just *happens* by osmosis. Getting saved is a gift of God that comes totally undeserved (by grace; Ephesians 2:8-9). Getting saved is an act of God whereby He removes the repentant sinner from a position of eminent danger and insecurity to a position of absolute safety and perfect security. This fits well with the idea of redemption found in the book of Ruth. Yet, it is a gift that **MUST** be received.

Salvation is the result of an intelligent decision based upon understanding our need and the provision made for our redemption by Jesus Christ (our Redeemer) through His life, death and resurrection. Salvation is a gift of God’s grace received by absolute faith in the substitutionary work of Christ on our behalf. We receive the gift of salvation by believing the gospel and receiving the Person of Jesus Christ as our Lord. He is our salvation. Jesus, the Person, the Eternal Son of God is our salvation. Salvation is always and only in the Person of Jesus Christ.

“¹¹ For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, ¹² Teaching us that, denying

ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;¹³ Looking for that blessed hope, and the **glorious appearing** {the appearance of the glory} of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;" (Titus 2:11-13).

"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).

Receiving Christ is receiving both the Redeemer and His redemption. A person cannot receive redemption without receiving the Redeemer and Who He is. He is Lord! This is not about giving your life to Christ. Your life is already His. He already has absolute authority over both your life and your soul. Receiving Christ and confessing Him as your Lord is acknowledging your understanding of the reality that your life and soul belong to Jesus.

"¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not. ¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: ¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:11-13).

With these truths in mind, we can pick up the story before us in Ruth 3:1. Ruth has just returned home from gleaning in the fields of Boaz. It was hot, dirty work. She has already beaten the grain from the stocks. She has probably just finished working a 16 hour day. She is tired, sweaty and dirty.

Now we find Naomi and Ruth making plans to claim Boaz as their kinsman redeemer. In his redemption they will find "rest" (a safe shelter meaning protection and security). According to Ruth 3:2, Boaz was "winnowing barley" at the "threshing floor." The "threshing floor" was a hard parched clay circular on top of a hill; as hard as concrete. In the late afternoon a breeze would begin to blow and the threshing and winnowing would begin. As long as the wind blew the threshing and winnowing would continue, often late into the night and early morning. After this long day, Boaz was still at the threshing floor working.

It would appear from Ruth 3:2-4 that Boaz was alone at the "threshing floor." Of course, that was not the case. This was a time of feasting and all the household of Boaz would camp around the "threshing floor." There would have been many people present, perhaps hundreds. This is important in order to understand there was nothing inappropriate going on here between Ruth and Boaz.

After the feast and work was over for the day, the men would sleep around the grain pile using it as a backrest with their feet sticking out from it like spokes on a giant wagon wheel. The entire grain pile was encircled this way to keep thieves from sneaking up in the dark and stealing the grain.

As we read our story, Ruth was instructed to wait until Boaz has finished eating and while the lamp was still lit, she was to note where he laid down at the grain pile. Then, after he was asleep, Ruth was to go and quietly lay down at Boaz's feet. In doing so, Ruth did two things.

1. She was officially making her request of him to be her redeemer.
2. To lie at his feet signified complete submission to Him (Lordship).

According to Ruth 3:8, Boaz was startled out of his sleep about midnight by something and discovers Ruth at his feet. Ruth requests Boaz to spread his "skirt over thine handmaiden (Ruth 3:9). The Hebrew is really *spread thy wing* (*Hebrew: kanaph; kaw-nawf*). It is a Hebrew idiom referring to sheltering protection (compare Ruth 2:2; Psalm 17:8, 36:7, 91:4). The real meaning is that Ruth was proposing marriage. She was laying claim to her redeemer and the redemption that was her gift from God in him.

In Ruth 3:10, Boaz commends Ruth for choosing him rather than one of the younger men and he promises her he will do everything he can to redeem her. What a blessing when we consider the extremes that Jesus went to in order to redeem us.

“Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works” (Titus 2:14).

The redemption of mankind was the plan of God from the very beginning before man was ever created. We know that from Galatians 4:4-5.

“⁴ But when the fulness 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 4:4-5).

The words “fulness of time” (Greek: *pleroma chronos*; *play'-ro-mah khron'-os*) could be paraphrased, *When time was fully prepared to deliver*. The point of reference takes us back to Genesis 3:15 when God promised a Redeemer for His fallen Creation. The Creation was *made pregnant* with the promise of God. When the necessary time was fulfilled, Messiah was born “made of a woman” (v 4). Mankind needed a kinsman redeemer, so the eternal Son of God became the Son of man.

That means Perfect God was united in Perfect Man. That fact is important because “made under the Law” means Jesus Christ (in His humanity) shared the communion of all mankind under the Law. That carries with it all the obligations and responsibilities of the Law. The good news is that Jesus Christ succeeded where every man has failed.

“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:” (Romans 3:10).

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” (Romans 3:23).

“Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:” (I Peter 2:22).

“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:” (I Peter 3:18).

The central purpose of the incarnation (Galatians 4:5) was “to redeem them that were under the {condemnation of the} law” because all mankind failed and were guilty of breaking that Law. All were condemned to death because all are guilty of the capital crime of sin against God.

“Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become **guilty** before God” {subject to the judgment of God, which judgment is a death sentence, Romans 6:23} (Romans 3:19).

“⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:9-10).

Why is the sinlessness of Christ so important? Salvation is in a Person, the Son of God Who became man. Why is it necessary to believe in the deity of Jesus Christ before anyone can be saved? If Jesus is not God, He was just another man. If He was just another man, He was born a sinner just like every descendant of Adam.

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:” (Romans 5:12).

One of the laws of redemption was that the person redeeming must not need redemption himself. The ability of Jesus to redeem (and the basis of salvation) was that He is sinless.

“For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (II Corinthians 5:21).

“¹⁸ Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹ But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:” (I Peter 1:18-19).

Man can do nothing to redeem himself. He is absolutely depraved and completely bankrupt spiritually. All he can do is humbly come to the feet of Jesus and accept the redemption He so freely offers. Have you claimed your redeemer? Come, kneel at His feet in humble repentance. Call unto to Him believing the Gospel. “For whosoever shall call on the Name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13). His Name is Jesus.

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Claiming Redemption by Claiming Our Redeemer

1. Salvation (being saved) is a _____ of God that comes to us totally undeserved.
2. What does the word *grace* mean in the Bible? _____
3. Salvation (being saved) is an act of God, whereby He removes the repentant sinner from a position of _____ danger and insecurity, to a _____ of absolute safety and perfect security."
4. Read Titus 2:10-14 and Acts 4:12. Why is it important to understand that salvation is in a Person? _____

5. From Ruth 3:1, what does the word "rest" signify that Naomi is seeking for Ruth (consider your answers to question #2)? _____
6. Read Ruth 3:2-4. Was Boaz alone at the "threshing floor"? _____
7. How did the men sleep at the "threshing floor," what was their back rest and pillow, and why did they do so? _____

8. What were the two things signified by Ruth lying down at the feet of Boaz?
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
9. From Ruth 3:9, what is the real meaning of the Hebrew words translated, "spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid"? _____

10. What was Ruth really requesting? _____

11. Discuss the significance to the doctrine of salvation regarding the reason why it is necessary that Jesus be both deity and sinless? _____

12. Compare Romans 10:13 to Joel 2:32. In Joel the word "LORD" is the Hebrew Jehovah. Who then are you calling on to save you when you call on the Name of Jesus? _____
 - A. Are they one and the same? _____
 - B. Have you called on Him (Jesus the God\man) in absolute faith, to save you? _____