

## 2152-The REDEEMER, REDEEMING-Ruth 4:1-22

PRELIMS. Ruth has been 'called out' by God from Moab, yet had personal, emotional, hard decisions to make She has been introduced to Boaz, her kinsman-redeemer who is **second 'in line'** to marry her. Boaz had **promised** and **sworn**, *as the Lord lives* to meet the nearest kinsman in the morning and remove all the **legal obstacles** and so marry Ruth. Boaz, like Christ, went steadfastly to Jerusalem to do the work and pay the price of redeeming His people. \*Ruth/Naomi/Boaz all had to exercise **patience** because it is always *through faith and patience* that all the saints *inherit the promises* [Heb 6:12] Well, we don't know did Ruth that night, sleep or not, but Naomi had rightly discerned Boaz to be a man who *will **not rest** but will settle the matter* [3:18] as X could not rest until He finished the work given Him to do and *accomplish at Jerusalem* what He had to do [L18:31].

B's concern to be **legally, officially, publicly** the **rightful husband** of Ruth. *He took ten men of the **elders** of the city...sit down here* [2] The 'gate' of the city was where all legal transactions were. Observe that all the details of the transaction are done 'above board'! No 'private bargaining'! *Buy it **in the presence** of those sitting here and in the **presence** of the **elders** of my people* [4] **APP** This is why the **Church sanctions believers!** There are no **independent**, self-appointed Xns - the **Church confirms** your testimony is **genuine** and Biblical! Some believers have an **over-exaggerated** view of their **personal testimony!** Thus: 'I'm a Xn but I don't belong to a church'! But every sailor/ship, every soldier/army, every pilot/aeroplane! Xns are to be **attested** by an **authority** - thus the phrase Church has **keys!**

What was it that B was to **settle**? **Remove** all the **legal impediments** to his rightful possession of Ruth. He had to pay any price due for the privilege. There was **no waiving** or **relaxing** of the law, only **fulfilment!** In Asia a nail was driven through the account sheet of paid debts. In 1950's an **upturned nail** in offices was for piercing paid accounts! **APP** X had to pay the price of our sins *And you... **God made alive...having forgiven us all our trespasses, by cancelling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, **nailing** it to the cross*** [Col 2:14]. **Twice** in Scripture we read *you were **bought** with a **price**.* [1Cor 6:20, 7:23] X **paid** for us!

Boaz laid down the situation. *a parcel of land*, as we say, was up for grabs...*if you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me...I come after you* [4] **Immediate** answer: *I will redeem it* [4]. 'Its a good deal. No problem'! B's says 'Not so quick' *The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead in order **to perpetuate the name of the dead** in his inheritance* [5]! Along with the property the law said that you also purchase Ruth **in order to** raise up a family to her late husband!

It would appear that the near-kinsman had a **family of his own** for whom he was planning a good future. But **if** he **married** Ruth any family proceeding from them, would have a **share** in the **property** - so it was **not** so attractive a deal as he thought. In fact he **immediately changed** his mind and said *I cannot redeem it for myself...take my right of redemption yourself* [16]! Wonderful. **Music to Boaz!**

**APP** What a picture the Holy Spirit gives us here. How many people on hearing of the **benefits** of Xnity, are happy to 'Join the Church'! They like all the good things which that community can bring - but **not** the **obligations** which accrue! *I cannot redeem it for myself lest I impair my own inheritance* [6] Marrying Ruth meant it would spoil his own plans for the future. Marrying Ruth meant spoiling his current enjoyments which obviously would get in the road!

Many people want heaven, but don't want the road that leads to heaven. They love this world too much they don't want to give it up. The Xn path spoils their fun. They can't swear, they can't get drunk, they can't take drugs, they can't sleep around - marrying Christ **impairs** their lifestyle. Like Esau, the redeemer **sold** his birthright!

Scripture has many examples of people like this. The **\*Rich young Ruler** *sell all that you have and give to the poor!* Riches was his idol, not worth giving up! **\*Felix!** *Go for now when I have convenient season I will call for you.* It was not convenient for him then - but it was actually very convenient because the Spirit was working on him - he was **alarmed** and **trembled!** He lost interest after that - seeking a **bribe** from Paul!! **\*Pilate** himself, made a similar choice. Convinced of Jesus' **innocence**, he nevertheless *delivered Jesus to their will.* All these **thought** they would **impair**

and spoil what they already had, when in actual fact, marrying Christ would only have **enhanced** and **improved** their ‘inheritance’.

**APP** Many in hearing the invitation to unite with Christ in the gospel **undervalue** the **spiritual blessings** which are to be had in union with Christ! Many like Esau **do not know** what they are ‘**throwing away**’. The day will come when, again like Esau, they **would inherit** the blessing but are **rejected**. *you know that **afterward**, when he **desired** to inherit the blessing, he was **rejected**, for he found no chance to **repent**, though he sought it with **tears*** [Heb 12:17]

Many are **frightened** of a **changed** life! They have **nothing special** which they may lose if they become Christian, but they are **not attracted** to the life! Well, that is **shame on us** Christians, for that means the **image** we present to the world in our daily walk is not good. Are we **happy** in the Lord? *Happy are you O Israel a people saved by the Lord* [Deu 33:29] *who is like Your people Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem to be His people, making Himself a name and doing for them great and awesome things by driving out before Your people, whom **You redeemed for yourself*** [2 Sam 7:23] Peter said *you **believe** in Him and **rejoice** with **joy** that is **inexpressible** and **filled** with glory* [1 Pet 1:8]. Paul had to **repeat strongly Rejoice in the Lord, and again I say Rejoice** [Phil 4:4] *But **rejoice** insofar as you **share Christ’s** sufferings, that you may also **rejoice** and be glad when his glory is revealed* [1 Pet 4:13]

Again, some when confronted with the gospel, are not interested just because they **are satisfied** with life. Life is okay, I am happy and contented as I am. Don’t disturb me. **Satisfied without Christ!** We were all like that. Such people don’t know what they are missing.

Paul reminded the elders at Ephesus that X purchased the **Church** with His own blood. [Acts 20:28] While He bought the Church **en masse**, the Church nevertheless is made up of **individuals** and each one is **precious** to God and to Christ. Jesus prayed on the eve of His crucifixion *I pray **for them**, I pray **not** for the world*. Jesus prayed for **individuals** - when Peter backslid, Jesus said *Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed **for you** that **your faith** may **not fail*** [Luke 22:32]

Note the **purpose** of the kinsman-redeemer marrying was *in order to perpetuate the name of the dead* [5]! To **carry on the covenant line!** So that His name will **not be blotted out**, *the name of the dead may not be cut off* [10] The purpose was to **build up** the house of Israel.

Gentlemen - did you notice it was **women** who are attributed the glory of establishing God's covenant people! **Oh**, how our generation **despise** the **honourable** calling of **motherhood!!** Good mothers are **vital** to the future prosperity of a nation. God so **ordained** that **mothers** are right there **every hour of every day** with their children to teach them the **vital basics** of **life, death, judgment, true glory!** Mothers have the **first opportunity** to put an indelible truth on the mind of a new born child about **God/reality!** They can do it **before anyone else** has a chance to **corrupt** their minds! Thus the **commendation** of Scripture, about *the offspring of the Lord* [12]!!

Notice in the **attesting** of the transaction, one party drew off their shoe and gave it to the other party [7] The redeemer drew off his shoe to **confirm the deal** before the elders. But note also that the **public** are called to **state we are witnesses** to the deal [9, 11] **APP** we too, the whole world will testify to the Lordship of Christ - **every knee shall bow, every tongue confess** [Isa 45:23, Rom 14:11]

**Thus** the *May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your house be like Rachel and Leah who together built up the house of Israel* [11b] Building for the **future generations** was 'big' in Israel - completely different from **Western culture** today. We are **self-centred/individualistic** in our outlook which **dismisses** a long-term strategy for the future of the world. Not so God. **\*God is building** a new heavens and new earth in which only righteousness dwells. He has not abandoned His **original plan** of a world where the **lion** and the **lamb** will dwell together. *behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered...be **glad** and **rejoice** forever in that which I create...no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days...They shall build houses and inhabit them...plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat...they shall **not labour in vain*** [Isa 65:17cf] **That** is where we are **heading!**