

Gleaning Satisfaction

Ruth 2:17-23

In our study of Ruth, we've seen how a poor and desperate woman, a stranger (foreigner) to the things of God and His people, comes to Bethlehem with her mother-in-law (Naomi) and begins to glean in the fields for food. Gleaning is the backbreaking, dirty work of collecting leftovers from the harvest, and it was the means for how the poor were cared for in ancient Israel (similar to beggars standing on street corners in our day asking for our leftovers). Ruth is guided by Providence to glean in the fields of a man named Boaz.

If you have a Bible with marginal references, in v. 20, you'll have a mark by the phrase "*he is one of our closest relatives*" (v. 20) directing you to a footnote: lit. "**one who has the right to redeem**" or "**one of our redeemers.**" By the time the Bible was translated into English (est. 16th century), the Old Testament concept of "redemption" had disappeared. *Though we sing about redemption, few know its full meaning.* You won't appreciate Ruth without understanding Scriptural redemption and the Kinsman-Redeemer. In the Law, there's the redemption of property (Leviticus 25:25-28) and of persons (Leviticus 25:47-48). If a Hebrew was in debt, he could sell his property or his person to "pay the debt." We call it "pawning." An item is pawned by the original owner or his representative! A mortgage is placed (e.g. death pledge). It is death to the owner's possession if not able to buy it back. But "*one able to redeem*" can buy it back. "Redeem" means "to buy back" and take possession of that which has been lost through personal debt.

I. We are strangers to the things of God.

Ruth pictures you. You were born in a country foreign to God's people (Moab). You worshiped other gods (Ruth 1:15). But your redeemer is from Bethlehem (Jesus Christ, like Boaz). He bought you back. ***Redemption presupposes a personal calamity*** – (see Romans 5:12 NIV)
Redemption presupposes personal inability (see Psalm 49:6-9 NIV).

II. We are saved by the efforts of our Kinsman.

There are seven biblical requirements for a Kinsman-Redeemer to buy you back for God's possession.

1. The one who has the right to redeem must **be a full kinsman.**
"Jesus isn't ashamed to call you brothers and sisters... fully human in every way" (Heb. 2:11, 18).
2. The one who has the right to redeem must himself **be free of debt**
"One holy, blameless, and pure; set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens" (Heb. 7:26).
3. The one who has the right to redeem must **completely fulfill the Law**
"I have come to do your will, my God." (Hebrews 10:7).
4. The one who has the right to redeem must **freely give his redemption.**
"During the days of Jesus' life, He offered up (Himself)" (Heb. 5:7-8; see John 10:17-18).
5. The one who has the right to redeem must **fully pay the price.**
"The blood of animals cannot take away sins...My blood is ready to give as a gift" (Heb. 10:4-5).
6. The one who has the right to redeem must **free those he redeems.**
"Christ's blood redeems us...so that we may serve the living God" (Heb. 9:14; see Matt. 1:21).
7. The one who has the right to redeem us must **find satisfaction in his redemption.**
"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many, and unto them that look for him he shall appear the second time without reference to sin for salvation" (Heb. 9:28).

III. We are "set-apart" from the world by a change of heart.

The New Covenant in Jeremiah 32 describes "God's laws written on the heart" and it's preceded by God calling Jeremiah to redeem his first cousin's land. This act symbolizes our eternal redemption.