

Your Kinsman Redeemer at Work

Ruth 3:14-18

The Hebrew word גָּאֵל (**gaal**) and its derivatives occurs 105 times in the Hebrew Scriptures, 22 times in Ruth alone. It is translated “to redeem,” or “redeemer, or “kinsman redeemer.” It’s a very important concept in the Old Testament and means “to buy” or to “buy back.” In Hebrew culture, a near kinsman (a blood relative) could pay the price required to purchase back land, homes, equipment, or assets that the relative had lost due to bankruptcy. Yahweh is called “your Savior, and your Redeemer” (Isaiah 49:26). So in Ruth, we have beautiful picture of a needy, lost sinner (Ruth) coming to her Kinsman-Redeemer (Boaz).

I. Your Kinsman Redeemer “speaks.”

“And he said, ‘Let it **not** be known that the woman came to the threshing floor’” (Ruth 3:14).

It’s not readily apparent to whom Boaz is speaking. It’s either to Ruth, servants, himself, or to God. Why were people not to know that Ruth had spent the night “at his feet”? They were not yet wed.

- A. To be careful to honor Ruth’s reputation.
- B. To not hinder others from helping Ruth.
- C. To prevent any shame on Yahweh’s name.

“Christ Jesus, who redeemed us, is at the right hand of God interceding for us” (Romans 8:34)

If our Kinsman Redeemer takes such caution to protect us, should we not do the same for others?

II. Your Kinsman Redeemer “directs.”

“Give me the cloak that is on you and hold it.” So she held it, and **he measured** six measures of barley and **he laid it on her**. Then she went into the city” (Ruth 3:15). How much did Boaz give her?

- A. The Hebrew language only uses the word “measure” without giving the amount.
- B. The Jewish Targum (spoken interpretation of the text) says that it was six bushels.
“Ruth had strength from the LORD to carry it and was extraordinarily assisted by Him.” (Targum)
- C. Wherever the Kinsman Redeemer guides, He provides.

III. Your Kinsman Redeemer “works.”

“When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, “How did it go, my daughter?” **And she told her all that the man had done for her**” (Ruth 3:16) May all we who’ve been redeemed speak of **His work!**

IV. Your Kinsman Redeemer “rests.”

There are two rests in this chapter: “My daughter, shall I not seek security (rest) for you? (Ruth 3:1)

“Then Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter, until you know how the matter turns out; for the man will not rest until he has settled it (your redemption) today” (Ruth 3:18). Which rest is more important?

A. Christ’s rest is more important to us than ours.

The great work which the Lord Jesus Christ came to do was to put away sin by His work for us.

His first recorded words. “Did you not know that I must be about my Father’s work” (Luke 2:49).

His often-spoken words. “I have come down from heaven to do my Father’s work” (John 6:38).

His last recorded words. “‘It is finished.’ He bowed His head and gave up His spirit” (John 19:30).

B. None of us truly rests until Christ’s rest is comprehended.

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28).

How do you give someone something? You have it yourself. Christ’s rest is something He gives.

C. “He shall see the travail (work) of His life (*napsow*) and be satisfied” (Isaiah 53:11).

“‘What must we do to perform the works of God?’ Jesus replied, “This is the work of God for you, that you should believe in Him whom He has sent” (John 6:29).