

**Renew**  
**Marks of the Redeemer: Ruth 4:1-12**  
**Vision Church**  
**Pastor Jerome Gay Jr.**

Well I'm glad to be able to share with you today. I know you guys have been in Esther and I want to share something from another significant woman in redemptive history and that's from the book of **Ruth**. Today I want to talk from the idea of **Marks of the Redeemer** and I want us to look at the **characteristics of the redeemer** and the **response of the redeemed**. A pastor friend of mine was sharing about a meeting he had with other area pastors. They were all sharing about their lives, challenges and praying for each other. One pastor began to share his story and he started like this, "I've been married twice, to the same woman." Obviously, everyone moved in and he began to share how he married when he was young and he totally disrespected his wife, he didn't support her, didn't help her, came in late and ran the streets and after about five years she divorced him. During the divorce, God really began to work on his heart and he knew that he needed to get his wife back. One of the things he said that stood out to me was "**God wrecked my life in order to make me right with him and I haven't been the same.**" He pursued his then ex-wife without expectation and they reconciled and have since been married over 30-years. I listened to another pastor share his story about how he grew up in a Christian home, he was a virgin, he went to bible study, but by his

own admission he didn't come to know Christ until he heard the gospel in college, **what's the point? Everyone needs renewal no matter how pristine or dirty we think our lives are and only Christ provides it.** Regardless of your story and how hard you may think it is or how boring you think it is you and I will not experience renewal without acknowledging that we need it. **Accepting unearned, unconditional grace begins a beautiful journey of living as God's children.** We'll see that today as we pick up where we left off the last time we were together. **Renewal is starts and ends with the redeeming work of Christ.**

**Ruth 4:1-4**

Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there. And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So Boaz said, "Turn aside, friend; sit down here." And he turned aside and sat down. <sup>2</sup>And he took ten men of the elders of the city and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down. <sup>3</sup>Then he said to the redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. <sup>4</sup>So I thought I would tell you of it and say, 'Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.' If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after you." And he said, "**I will redeem it.**"

**Take Note...**

A **renewed life** begins with the canceling of an eternal

debt.

Before we can access the **renewed life**, we must first understand that we need renewal. The renewal begins and ends with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Creation→Fall→Redemption). Ruth is being **redeemed**, to redeem means **to buy back** and what Boaz is doing points us to what Christ has done for us; **he paid our eternal debt and through his death he reconciles us to the Father**. Redeemer, Redemption. English words derived from a Latin root meaning, “to buy back,” thus meaning the liberation of any possession, object, or person, usually by payment of a ransom. **In Greek the root word means “to loose” and so to free. Free from what? (Penalty, power and presence of sin)**. The term is used of freeing from chains, slavery, or prison. In the theological context, the term “redemption” indicates a freeing from the slavery of sin, the ransom or price paid for freedom. This thought is indicated in the Gospels, which speak of Christ who came “to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mt 20:28; Mk 10:45). BEB

### **Romans 3:23-26**

<sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup>It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he

might **be just and the justifier** of the one who has faith in Jesus.

### **Take Note...**

Redemption is the work of **The Redeemer**.

If we recall from chapter three Ruth came to Boaz at night and expressed her desire for him to redeem her. Chapter four picks up from there and we see Boaz going into action and this must have been hard, but this shows the work, courage, love and tenacity of the redeemer. Boaz has to go and talk to the other redeemer who is “closer” (Ruth 3:12) than he. Boaz is letting him know of the opportunity to redeem and we’re getting a glimpse of what transpired. Boaz is pretty up front he lays his cards on the table; the land is available, do you want it, if not I do. Now we’ve said throughout this series that Boaz ultimately points us to Christ the redeemer of all humanity, so I want us to read this with an **eternal lens** for those of us that are Disciples of Christ. Boaz is a **kinsman-redeemer**; a kinsman-redeemer was compelled to buy back his relatives if they fell into debt or had to sell themselves into slavery (Lev. 25:25-55).

In Boaz’s response, we see **Six Characteristics of The Redeemer**:

1. The Redeemer **initiates** redemption (Ruth 4:1). Notice that Boaz makes the first move. God as far back as Creation has always initiated redemption; He pursues us (Gen. 3:9 “Adam where are you...”).

2. The Redeemer **publicly displays** his love for those needing redemption (Ruth 4:2). The men were witnesses of the transaction because Boaz wanted others to know. **Christ** wasn't ashamed to wear the Crown of Thorns publicly because he knew that, that crown was meant for us and displayed his love for us.
3. The Redeemer is **intimately aware** of those needing redemption (Ruth 4:3). Boaz knows her history and that doesn't sway him from trying to redeem her. Christ is intimately aware EVERYTHING about us. The deepest and darkest secret that we think no one knows, Christ knows and he still pays our debt with joy.
4. The Redeemer has the **means** to redeem. When Boaz says in verse 4 "buy it in the presence..." he's saying that he has the money needed to buy the land and sustain the family if he won't buy it. Christ's love revealed in the Gospel doesn't only save you it keeps you **and Jesus had the means and power to drink our cup of wrath.**
5. The Redeemer, redeems simply because he **loves**. Boaz is doing a ton of work and from a purely natural perspective he isn't get anything out of the deal. In essence he's just displaying his love for Ruth. Christ saves us for no benefit of his own (natural sense), after all he's holy, but he does it because he embodies love.
6. The Redeemer **desires** to redeem us (Ruth 4:4). Boaz says in verse 4 "I come after you." The Old

Testament was written in Hebrew and the phrase "I will redeem it" carries possessiveness and passion, Boaz wants within the depths of his soul to redeem Ruth. Christ laid down his life because **he wants to redeem us**. What that means is **He wants you**. The idea of no one wanting you simply isn't true because you have a redeemer that **initiated** your redemption, **displayed** his love for you on the cross, while being **intimately** aware of your flaws and he still wants you, He **desires** you. **There's NOTHING and NO ONE too hard for God, including you.**

#### **Ruth 4:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> Then Boaz said, "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." <sup>6</sup> Then the redeemer said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

Once Boaz told him of the fine print the relative backed out, now people argue over why he backed out, but the text seems to tell us. He basically says by his response that he can't afford both his family and this new family because he wouldn't be responsible for Naomi, but Ruth also. There are two primary ways to view the reason for his change of heart: **1)** He couldn't afford it **2)** Ruth a Moabite woman would inherit some of his estate. **3)** Both. It's most likely that he couldn't afford and he had an issue with Ruth being

a Moabite. Now let's look at this knowing who Boaz points us to. **Romans 5 talks about Christ being the second Adam and Paul records how what Adam destroyed, Christ renews.** I'm not saying this relative is Adam reincarnate, but here's the point. The first Adam couldn't pay the debt owed for sin and neither can this relative who goes unnamed. **You and I can't pay our own debt** and what's ironic about this text is the fact that he rejects redemption to save his name (he says doesn't want to "impair my own inheritance") **and as a result of trying to save his own name, his name isn't even mentioned in scripture. What about you?** Are you trying to save yourself? Who or what are you placing hope in other than Christ to save a name, reputation or something else? In the end, when we try to save ourselves we miss out on the greatest opportunity that we'll ever have, being named amongst God's family. **You see because he passes on redemption he misses out on being apart of the lineage of Christ the Messiah.**

### **Thought Tattoo**

You cannot build God's kingdom if you aren't willing to destroy your own.

I said earlier in this series that sometimes **it seems like God's will totally opposes your dreams.** You and I don't have a name to save, but we know the name of the one who does. **Boaz shows us the renewed life is seen when we place God's glory above personal fame.** We exist to spread his fame and not build our own platform

(Invite|Invest|Inspire). After refusing to redeem Ruth to save his name, this unnamed relative goes into anonymity and we don't hear of him again.

### **Ruth 4:7-10**

<sup>7</sup>Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. <sup>8</sup>So when the redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself," he drew off his sandal. <sup>9</sup>Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and to Mahlon. <sup>10</sup>Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day."

### **Take Note...**

The renewed life begins with a transfer of ownership.

During those times a legal transaction was finalized by a symbolic gesture in front of witnesses. The passing of the sandal symbolized Boaz's right to walk on the land as his own (Deut. 1:36, 11:24, Josh. 1:3 and 14:9). Him giving up his sandal meant that ownership was transferred to Boaz, I want us to look at this transaction from Ruth's perspective because she's just trusting that Boaz is working it out. **We**

**come like Ruth; we don't bring anything to the table except our sin and need of redemption.** The act of faith to trust the redeemer in our case is a transfer of ownership from us to Christ. You and I don't have what it takes to redeem, renew or rebuild us in a way of eternal significance. Yes we can acquire more degrees, lose weight, gain muscle, move up the corporate ladder and be smarter than anyone in our circle, but none of those great things hold eternal weight. Have you signed the deed of your life over to Christ? **The natural response to my question is how do you know?** Great question here are three T's: **Trust, Transformation, Trust.**

- **Trust** – Salvation
- **Transformation** – Sanctification
- **Trust** – Glorification

There are five gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and the Christian, but some will never read the first four. – **Gypsy Smith (Irish Evangelist)**

It's not just simply I **trusted** him when I was twelve the question is; are you still **trusting Him now?** Do you trust Him now? **2 Tim. 4:7** Paul said I fought; I finished the race I kept the faith you know you've transferred the deed if you're still trusting him and your life reflects; **you FINISH** (pain, tired and torn). Boaz says he will perpetuate the name of the dead he's referring to Elimelech and Elimelech's son Mahlon, notice in verse 9-10 everyone was mentioned except Orpah. **The unnamed relative and Orpah chose there own way as opposed to trusting in**

**God and as a result their names ended with them.** When you sign the deed of your life over to Christ you'll live forever and experience eternal bliss in the presence of God the Father. Is what or whom you're holding onto worth that today? **I say this as someone who once thought I had life figured out and I also sat as a skeptic and I can tell you that it isn't.**

#### **Ruth 4:11-12**

<sup>11</sup> Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem, <sup>12</sup> and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the LORD will give you by this young woman."

After the agreement was finalized the people responded by rejoicing at Boaz's action. They were witnesses to a true act of love. What they say has significance, they referenced Rachel and Leah and their story is found in **Gen. 29-31**, Rachel was barren for years before finally conceiving just like Ruth who was married to Mahlon for ten-years without having children, Leah had three sons to Jacob, but his heart was with Rachel and she named the fourth child Judah, which means praise and Judah lead us to the mention of Tamar whose story is found in **Genesis 38**. Tamar's husband Er was wicked and died. Judah then tells Onan; Er's brother to take in Tamar and have a child, but he

disobeys by withdrawing whenever they were intimate and she obviously doesn't conceive. Tamar decides to hide her identity from Judah and dress up like a prostitute Judah sleeps with her not knowing it's his daughter-in-law and she becomes pregnant with twins. She gives birth to twin boys; one named Zerah and the other Perez and it's through Perez that we get to Boaz. That's a crazy story right? What does that have to do with this wonderful love story? Boaz knew about Moabite women and what they were known for, but the past or reputation of Moabite women didn't stop him from redeeming this Moabite woman named Ruth. Christ our redeemer offers us a renewed life regardless of the circumstances of our past or present. The renewed life is simply living and lavishing in God's grace. Here's the point notice **the redeemer does all the work and we simply admit our need of redemption.**

#### **The Response of the Redeemed:**

- **Remember** His work through meditating on His word and listening to His voice.
- **Reveal** His work in how you live.
- **Repeat** His work by sharing it with others.
- **Rest** in His work (he made you right with Him).