



THE BOOK OF RUTH

Lesson Five

Taking Care of Business

Ruth 4:1-22

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Ruth 4:1

- Ancient Near Eastern cities were very crowded
- There was an open area near the city gate where business was conducted.
- Boaz knew that eventually the man would have to pass by there.

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Ruth 4:2

- City elders gathered at the gate to do business.
- They could be called upon to witness business transactions or render judgments in disputes or criminal actions.
- Such witnessed transactions were legally binding upon the parties to the transactions.

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Ruth 4:3-5

- Naomi had the legal right to sell the land, but
- It had to be purchased by a kinsman-redeemer to stay in her husband's line.
- The closest kinsman is eager to buy the property.
- Then Boaz tells him that he must acquire Ruth along with the property.

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Ruth 4:6

- The closer relative did not want Ruth in the bargain.
- He did not want to diminish his own inheritance.
- He may not have wanted a second wife although that was acceptable in their culture.
- He also may have been prejudiced against Moabites.
- Ruth and Naomi could have publicly shamed him, but they didn't, since they wanted Boaz to redeem them.

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Ruth 4:7-8

- Removing a sandal was a symbol of the transfer of land.
- The sandal pictured someone walking over the land he owned.
- Thus when someone wanted to sell a piece of land he removed his sandal and gave it to the person he was selling it to.

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Ruth 4:9-10

- The elders and the people are witnesses of the sale of land to Boaz, and of his acquiring Ruth as his wife.
- Boaz has established full legal right to the family possessions of Elimelech and his two deceased sons.
- Since Chilion's widow stayed in Moab she forfeited her right to be redeemed, so Chilion's share of the inheritance goes to Ruth's children.

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Ruth 4:11-12

- The elders and the people confirm their witness of the transaction.
- They pronounce a blessing on Boaz and Ruth that their union will be fruitful and that Boaz's house will be like that of their ancestor Perez.
- They pray for the *chayil* (wealth, excellence, valor) of Boaz and Ruth and their descendants.

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Ruth 4:13

- Boaz marries Ruth and she conceives and gives birth to a son.
- God is the One who gave the conception to Ruth.
- He is the source of all good things—James 1:17.

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Ruth 4:14-17

- Naomi's transition from poverty to security has been a witness to her friends, and they give glory to God.
- They pray blessings on the child that he will become great in Israel.
- They praise Ruth who they say is better than seven sons to Naomi.
- They name the child "Obed", meaning "servant".

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Ruth 4:18-22

- These verses present the genealogy from Perez to David the King.
- This shows the continuity of God's hand in directing the events of history
- It is a part of the greater genealogy of Jesus Christ presented in Matthew chapter 1.
- It is a testimony of God's grace and how He blesses the righteous.

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The Christian's Inheritance

1. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the heir of all things—
Heb. 1:1-4.
2. Inheritance is based on sonship—John 1:12, Rom.
8:16-17; Gal. 3:26-29.
3. To inherit from God one must possess eternal life—
Titus 3:5-7; 1 John 5:11-12.

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The Christian's Inheritance

4. Salvation is the qualification for inheriting from God—Col. 1:9-14.
5. We have an inheritance because we share the destiny of Jesus Christ—Eph. 1:11.
6. As joint-heirs with Christ we also share in His election—Heb. 9:15.

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The Christian's Inheritance

7. Our inheritance is related to the Doctrine of Eternal Security—1 Pet. 1:3-5.
8. The Indwelling Holy Spirit is the down-payment on our inheritance—Eph. 1:14.
9. Abraham's inheritance is the pattern and illustration of the heritage of believers—Rom. 4:9, 13-16.