

Transforming Daily
“ . . . I cannot redeem it for myself . . . ”
Ruth 4:6

The time has come in the storyline for Boaz to investigate who the nearest kinsman is. He finds him at the entry way of the gate to the city and speaks with him, as was their custom, in the presence of ten other men. Boaz explained the situation to his kinsman. However, at first he didn't tell his brother that the transaction included the marriage to Ruth. When he revealed that detail, the nearer kinsman exclaimed that he could not redeem the land nor Naomi and Ruth under those conditions.

The nearer kinsman, though qualified by heritage, was not qualified by law to redeem Naomi and Ruth. If he tried to, he would lose his own holdings and standing in the community. The man rightly refused the opportunity and turned it over to Boaz who could satisfy both the qualifications of heritage and law. Not to mention the fact that he desired to redeem them.

Redeeming something isn't just about having enough money or resources, personal qualifications are also necessary. Sometimes local organizations will give opportunities for prizes and gifts to be redeemed by those who meet certain requirements. The seventh caller, the fastest runner, the one who can do the most or the least, etc., are qualifications for the participants. However, almost always, for various reasons, the organization offering the opportunity disqualifies any staff or family members of staff from participating. The reasons why are probably many, but for our illustrative purposes here, the only reason that matters is that they don't satisfy the requirements of the rules, or laws, if you will, of the game. Therefore, they cannot redeem the gift or gifts in question.

This transaction is the gospel. The nearer kinsman cannot redeem Naomi and Ruth who are destitute and in desperate need of an advocate. Without him, they would be left to many adverse and harmful situations, some even according to the law. However, Boaz is qualified and willing to redeem them from their most certain peril. He puts everything on the line for both a Jew and a Gentile. In essence, Boaz is giving everything including his life to and for Naomi and Ruth. Jesus Christ did the same for a world of lost sinners, to the Jew first and then the Gentile (John 3:16). He willingly and obediently gave His life for and to all who believe. Jesus satisfied heritage (John 1:14 fully God and fully man) and the law (He didn't do away with the law, but fulfilled it). Jesus is indeed our Kinsman Redeemer.

Do you know Jesus Christ as your Kinsman Redeemer? Are you trusting Him alone for your salvation? Is there anything else that you lean on or look to for your eternal life in heaven? Each of us must come to the absolute truth about our qualifications, and that of anyone else's other than Jesus Christ, for the redemption of our soul, and that is, I cannot redeem it for myself.