

Transforming Daily
“ . . . you are witnesses . . . ”
Ruth 4:9

When Boaz and the other kinsman of Naomi’s finalized the business of redeeming Naomi and Ruth from social and economic ruin, he said to the people, “You are witnesses this day.” Boaz wanted everyone concerned to know that he was the rightful owner and possessor of all that belonged to Naomi, and that Ruth was now going to be his wife. This was important as a matter of satisfying the law as well as social status. Just as important was the need for those who were involved as “witnesses” to account for him should his recent acquisitions be questioned by others who weren’t present at the business transaction.

A witness is extremely important. That’s why when taking the stand in a court of law a witness is sworn in. The witness is to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. However, there are those who perjure themselves on the witness stand for many different reasons. Usually all of the reasons have something to do with material gain, or in order not to lose something material. On the other hand, the most dangerous witness is the one who doesn’t speak at all, the witness who knows the truth and has the opportunity to share it, but remains quiet even to the detriment of the innocent defendant (if there is such a one apart from Christ). In this particular case with Boaz, if the transaction should come under legal contention, and none of the witnesses spoke on his behalf, he could stand to lose everything (so could Naomi and Ruth) and worse, face criminal charges, and if found guilty, he could be sent to prison or put to death.

For the 21st century Christian, we should take note of this. According to Acts 1:8, after having been saved, we are sworn witnesses (empowered by the Holy Spirit) to Jesus Christ. That means we are to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth on behalf of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Remember Judas? Remember all of Christ’s disciples, His witnesses turning away when He was arrested? Remember the chief priests and rulers bribing and being bribed to bare false witness against Christ our Redeemer? The charge here is for the believer to tell the truth both actively and passively. Actively sharing the truth about our redemption through Jesus Christ is called “soul winning,” “witnessing,” or “sharing the faith.” Passively sharing the truth is not to back down or be ashamed of our redeemer should someone ask what we believe, or if we believe that our redeemer, Jesus Christ, is Lord and Savior. (Someone might think that this is odd that a believer should have to be challenged to passively share their faith, but I assure you it is not, and in the near future, it will become increasingly more difficult to passively share one’s faith without being persecuted for it, let alone actively.)

Do you actively share your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? Do you proudly witness that He redeemed you from sin? Is there fear in your heart that you might be persecuted for the faith even if you passively share your faith? Take all of this into consideration and remember this, you are witnesses!