



## Redemption

In our previous session, we saw Ruth making her “move”, and Boaz has promised to be her guardian-redeemer. Boaz realizes that he needed to follow the proper process, especially when there is someone who is in closer relation to Ruth. All throughout the book of Ruth, Boaz has carried himself with integrity and he continues to do so in our session today. This is all the more impressive when we find out that his decision to be Ruth’s guardian-redeemer is actually costly to him.

### Launch

- 1) Share amongst yourselves of a time when there was a cost to you to act with integrity, whether in terms of financially or emotionally or relationally etc.

### REDEMPTION

**Read Ruth 4:1-12.**

- 2) What did Boaz do in v1-2?
  - a. What do you think is the significance of gathering these people at the town gate?
- 3) What did Boaz say to the guardian-redeemer? (v3-4)
  - a. How did the guardian-redeemer respond?
- 4) What additional information did Boaz provide to the guardian-redeemer? (v5)
  - a. What was the guardian-redeemer’s response to that?
  - b. Why do you think acquiring Ruth might endanger his own estate? (v6)
- 5) Read Deuteronomy 25:5-10 to understand the context of v7-8.

- 6) What did Boaz decide to do? (v8-10)
- a. Based on your answer in Question 4b, what do you think is the implication of Boaz acquiring Ruth to himself?
  - b. What do you think is the significance of him doing this in front of witnesses, especially the elders of his people? (v10b)
- 7) What blessing did the elders and all the people give to Boaz? (v11-12)
- a. What is the difference from our modern-day notions of blessing in a marriage?
- 8) What can we learn from Boaz's example of doing things transparently and with integrity in our lives, whether it is in our workplaces, family, or churches?
- 9) What are some blessings that many desire today that might be different from a biblical view of blessings?

## Conclusion

Boaz gathered the elders of his people and the town, together with the guardian-redeemer of Ruth at the town gate. It was a public area with Boaz fully intending to go through the process of marrying in a transparently manner in front of witnesses. He first asks the guardian-redeemer<sup>1</sup> if he wanted to buy the piece of land that belonged to Elimelek. Upon learning that he would also be bringing Ruth into his family, he decided against it. This is possibly because it would mean that he may have to split his inheritance amongst more people, hence endangering his estate. Boaz took up the responsibility to do that instead, in front of all these witnesses, to be Ruth's guardian-redeemer. He performed all these things without any hint of shadiness or suspicious activity. In fact, this way of blessing Ruth was probably very costly to him (remember that he had to buy Elimelek's land off Naomi). May we learn and emulate Boaz's character in our lives.

---

<sup>1</sup> It is interesting that this guardian-redeemer was never named, perhaps not to distract from Boaz as *the* guardian-redeemer in this story.