

Your Kinsman Redeemer at Work

Ruth 3:14-18

¹⁴So she lay at his feet until morning and rose before one could recognize another; and he said, "Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor."¹⁵ Again he said, "Give me the cloak that is on you and hold it." So she held it, and he measured six *measures* of barley and laid it on her. Then she went into the city.¹⁶ When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "How did it go, my daughter?" And she told her all that the man had done for her.¹⁷ She said, "These six *measures* of barley he gave to me, for he said, 'Do not go to your mother-in-law empty-handed.'"¹⁸ Then she said, "Wait, my daughter, until you know how the matter turns out; for the man will not rest until he has settled it today."

I want to welcome everyone on this lovely Sunday morning of Oct. 4 to the Osaka International Church.

My name is Charlie Seelen. My wife (Teresa) and I serve as Southern Baptist missionaries here in the Osaka area.

The OIC family have been great partners and dear friends throughout our many years of service in Japan.

Which makes this a privilege to be with you this morning.

I enjoy celebrations.

Both of the countries I have lived in, Japan and the USA have some good celebrations.

In Japan we have Seijin Shiki: Coming of Age Day (second Monday of January)

Hinamatsuri: Doll Festival (March 3), Hanami: Flower Viewing (late March to early May)

In America we have: Easter, 4th of July, Thanksgiving, and Christmas

Both Countries celebrate New Years!

I also enjoy family traditions, such as: school graduations, anniversaries, and birthdays.

My Osaka team had several celebration dates during the month of September. We had two of our couples celebrate anniversaries. I celebrated my birthday along with 4 other team members. And probably the best celebration for the month of September was the birth of Ruby Jane Peevy!

(Photo of the baby)

These celebration traditions help us pass on fundamental values to the next generation, so they do not forget what is important.

We as a church have some wonderful celebrations that were shared with the Church several years ago and that we have the privilege to participate in and help pass it on to the next generations.

Today you are going to see the meaning of the Lord's Supper weaved throughout today's biblical passage.

Our text today is in the book of Ruth. Ruth was from the land of Moab. Now the Moabites (including Ruth) were descendants of an incestual relationship between Lot and his daughter. So the Moabites were looked down upon by the Jews. Ruth met a Jewish family, Elimelech and Naomi with their two sons who had come to Moab

because of famine in Bethlehem. How she married one of Elimelech and Naomi's sons. Over time all of the men had died, leaving the women alone. Naomi had heard things were better in Bethlehem and so Ruth decided to return to Judah with Naomi. Ruth, a Moabite, enters a Jewish city she has never been before. You can just imagine the rude looks Ruth received from the Jewish people and the gossip that spread throughout the city.

Naomi and Ruth arrive in Bethlehem with very little positions and with very little money. However, it was the beginning of the barley harvest. So, Ruth persuaded Naomi to allow her to go *glean* (gather leftover grain) from the fields the reapers have already harvested. After the first day of gleaning Ruth shares with Naomi that she had been gleaning in a field owned by a man named Boaz. Naomi is full of thanksgiving as she tells Ruth that Boaz is a close relative and one of our redeemers.

The Hebrew word לָאָה (gaal) and its derivatives occurs 105 times in the Hebrew Scriptures, 22 times in Ruth alone. It is translated "to redeem," or "redeemer, or "kinsman redeemer." It's a very important concept in the Old Testament and means "to buy" or to "buy back." In Hebrew culture, a near kinsman (a blood relative) could pay the price required to purchase back land, homes, equipment, or assets that the relative had lost due to bankruptcy. Yahweh is called "your Savior, and your Redeemer" (Isaiah 49:26). In the book of Ruth, we have a beautiful picture of a needy, lost sinner (Ruth) coming to her Kinsman-Redeemer (Boaz).

A. Your Kinsman Redeemer "protects"

vs. 14 "And he said, 'Let it **not** be known that the woman came to the threshing floor'"

It's not readily apparent to whom Boaz is speaking. It's either to Ruth, servants, himself, or to God.

Why were people not to know that Ruth had spent the night "at his feet"? They were not yet wed.

1. To be careful to honor Ruth's reputation. (Jews already look down at the Moabites)
2. To not hinder others from helping Ruth.
3. To prevent any shame on Yahweh's name.

The *Great Commandment* is a name used in the New Testament to describe the first two commandments cited by Jesus (Matt. 22:35-40, Mark 12:28-34, and Luke 10:27)

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31)

"Christ Jesus, who redeemed us, is at the right hand of God interceding for us" (Romans 8:34).

If our Kinsman Redeemer takes such caution to protect us, should we not do the same for others?

B. Your Kinsman Redeemer "provides"

"Give me the cloak that is on you and hold it." So she held it, and **he measured** six measures of barley and **he laid it on her**. Then she went into the city" (Ruth 3:15). How much did Boaz give her?

1. The Hebrew language only uses the word "measure" without giving the amount.
2. The Jewish Targum (spoken interpretation of the text) says that it was six bushels.
"Ruth had strength from the LORD to carry it and was extraordinarily assisted by Him" (Targum)
3. Wherever the Kinsman Redeemer guides, He provides.

C. Your Kinsman Redeemer “works.”

“When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, “How did it go, my daughter?” **And she told her all that the man had done for her**”(Ruth 3:16). May all we who’ve been redeemed speak of **His work!**

1. Evangelism - tell them what He has done for you done now
The Greek word for preach(kerusso) – proclaim or herald.

D. Your Kinsman Redeemer “rests.”

There are two rests in this chapter:

“My daughter, shall I not seek security (rest) for you?”(Ruth 3:1).

“Then Naomi said, ‘Wait, my daughter, until you know how the matter turns out; for the man will not rest until he has settled it (your redemption) today’ ” (Ruth 3:18).

Which rest is more important?

1. Christ’s rest is more important to us than ours.

- The great work which the Lord Jesus Christ came to do was to put away sin by His work for us.
- His first recorded words. “Did you not know that I must be about my Father’s work?” (Luke 2:49)
- His often-spoken words. “I have come down from heaven to do my Father’s work” (John 6:38)
- His last recorded words. “ ‘It is finished.’ He bowed His head and gave up His spirit” (John 19:30)

2. None of us truly rests until Christ’s rest is comprehended.

- “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28)
- How do you give someone something? You have it yourself. Christ’s rest is something He gives.

3. “He shall see the travail (work) of His life (*napsow*) and be satisfied” (Isaiah 53:11).

- “ ‘What must we do to perform the works of God?’
- Jesus replied, “This is the work of God for you, that you should believe in Him whom He has sent’ ” (John 6:29).