

**I. Introduction – redemption and romance.**

**II. Ruth is a woman of excellence. 3:11 Prov. 31:10**

- A. Her hope is fixed upon the LORD. 2:12 1:16-17 Prov. 31:30
- B. She reflects the LORD's lovingkindness by being faithful to her commitments to family – going above and beyond. 2:11a 1:16-17 3:10 Prov. 31:21,11-12
- C. She takes initiative. 2:2 3:9 Prov. 31:16 1 Sam. 25:14ff
- D. She works very hard (and is strong). 2:3,7,17,23 Prov. 31:13-15,17-22,25,27
- E. She speaks with excellence and wisdom, conveying humility, respect, and gratitude. 2:7a,10,13b Pr. 31:26a 1 Pet. 3:2-4
- F. She is fearless because she trusts God. 2:9b,12b Prov. 31:21,30 1 Pet. 3:6b
- G. Her excellence is her character and good works, not mere outer beauty. Prov. 31:28-31 11:22 6:25
- H. She has earned a reward from the LORD. 2:12a Prov. 31:30-31
- I. Application.
  - 1. These are the qualities to which godly ladies aspire. 2:11 1 Ti. 2:9-11 1 Pe. 3:3-4
  - 2. These are the character qualities which should attract an excellent man (a Boaz). 3:11 2:11f Prov. 31:10ff

**III. Boaz is a man of excellence. 2:1**

- A. Boaz is a man of strength – a mighty man. v. 1 2 Sam. 23:1 Deut. 8:18 1 Ki. 7:21 Judges 11:1 6:12
- B. Boaz is a man whose whole life is centered on the LORD. v. 4
  - 1. He stands head and shoulders above the other men of his age. 1:1-5 Judges 21:25 Job. 31:24-28
  - 2. His piety is not compartmentalized, but encompasses all of life, including his work. 2:9,15 Job. 31:5-9,13-15,38-40 Dt. 8:18 Num. 6:24 Ps. 129:8
- C. How does Boaz set an example for us in our vocations? Pr. 27:23
  - 1. A believer cannot separate his loyalty to the LORD from his work. Mt. 5:16 Titus 2:9-10 Eph. 6:5-8 1 Co. 10:31
  - 2. The gospel transforms vocation. Eph. 4:28 6:5
  - 3. It is good to be successful in your work. Prov. 10:4 22:29 30:30ff 18:9 28:20
- D. Boaz reflects the LORD's lovingkindness for the poor. 2:20,12 Job. 31:16-23,31-32
  - 1. His actions match his pious words and prayers. 2:12
  - 2. He faithfully fulfills his duty, even going beyond the letter of the law, by offering protection and provision. 2:8-9,14-16
- E. How well do we reflect the LORD's lovingkindness to those in need?
  - 1. Are you doing what it takes to meet your family's needs? 1 Ti. 5:4,8 Mt. 15:5ff
  - 2. Are you helping your needy Christian brethren? Mt. 25:31ff 1 Jo. 3:17 Jo. 13:14 Js. 1:27 2:15-17 Ga. 5:14 2 Co. 8:9ff 2 Th. 3:10-12 Pr. 16:26 19:15

- F. Boaz speaks with excellence and wisdom – affirmation, kindness and compassion. 2:11,13 3:10-11
- G. Boaz is a gentleman who respects the rights of others and keeps his word. 3:8ff 4:1 Prov. 3:27-28
- H. Boaz is not a respecter of persons, but welcomes all who trust the LORD. 2:10ff Gen. 12:3 Ga. 3:28 Acts 10:28 Rom. 15:7 Js. 2:1ff
- I. Boaz is a kinsman-redeemer. 2:20 3:14
  - 1. What does a kinsman redeemer do?
    - a. He redeems family property (inheritance) which has been lost due to financial hardship. 4:3-4 Lev. 25:23-30 Jer. 32:1ff Ex. 19:5
    - b. He redeems relatives who have been enslaved due to debt. Lev. 25:47-55
    - c. He avenges a family member's murder. Nu. 35:12,19ff Dt. 19:6,12 Josh 20:2ff
    - d. He pleads for justice in court. 4:1ff Jer. 50:34 Ps. 119:154 Job 19:25
    - e. In certain circumstances he marries a widow in order to maintain her husband's family name. 4:5 Deut. 25:5-10 Gen. 38:8ff 1 Ti. 5:14 1 Co. 7:39
  - 2. Naomi is thinking ahead.
- J. Application.
  - 1. What kind of men should we seek to become?
  - 2. What kind of man makes the most desirable husband?

#### IV. Conclusion.

- A. It appears that Ruth and Boaz are made for each other.
  - 1. Both are of noble character. 2:1 3:11
  - 2. One needs redemption, the other is a redeemer.
  - 3. The author sprinkles in marriage language throughout this chapter. 2:8,11 (Gen. 2:24) 2:10 (1 Sam. 25:23) 2:12 (Gen. 29:15) 2:13 (Gen. 34:3 Judges 19:3 Hosea 2:17) 2:20 (Gen. 24:27)
- B. Christ is the man of valor/virtue who shows us lovingkindness.
  - 1. He is wealthy and sacrificially uses His wealth to enrich us. 2:1 2 Cor. 8:9
  - 2. He provides for us – bread and water. 2:12-16 John 6:35 7:37-38 His provision is abundant. 2:17 John 10:10 Eph. 1:3ff 3:20 2 Pet. 1:3
  - 3. He protects us. 2:9,15b John 10:28 Mt. 11:28ff Heb. 2:14-15 1 Jo. 3:8
  - 4. He prays for us. 2:12 Rom. 8:34 Hebrews 7:25
  - 5. He is our kinsman-redeemer. Heb. 2:17 Ro. 8:3 6:6 3:24 Co. 1:14 Ga. 3:13,28-29 4:5 Titus 2:14 Eph. 1:7,14 Heb. 9:12,15 Ps. 103:4 107:2 1 Pet. 1:18

#### Discussion questions

1. When and why is it legitimate to use biblical characters as moral examples?  
How would you answer someone who says that it is wrong to preach about Ruth and Boaz as moral examples because none of us can be perfect except in Christ?
2. How does Ruth exemplify the character qualities of an ideal woman?  
Contrast Ruth with the women who get noticed in our day.
3. How does Boaz exemplify the character qualities of an ideal man?  
Contrast Boaz with the men who receive attention in our culture.
4. How does Boaz set an example for us in our various vocations?
5. How should we reflect God's lovingkindness to those in need?
6. How should the example of Ruth and Boaz affect how we look at ourselves and others?
7. How does the story of Ruth point to the bigger story of redemption?
8. What does a kinsman-redeemer do?  
How does Christ fulfill the office of kinsman-redeemer?