

NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

LESSON FIFTY-EIGHT: RUTH 4:1a

"Then went Boaz up to the gate, and sat him down there...."

Their roles were reversed. Now Ruth had to sit at home waiting while Boaz swept into action. It must have been a relief for Boaz when his waiting had come to an end and he was released to act.

From the moment he saw her, Boaz was enamored of Ruth. Initially, he was struck by her outer beauty. So much so he had to inquire of his servant regarding her identity. When he learned that this was the Moabite girl who had accompanied Naomi, Boaz was impressed with her inner beauty as well. Here was an unselfish young lady who had devoted herself to caring for her aging widowed mother-in-law. Ruth was modest, compassionate, and a hard worker.

Knowing that he was a near kinsman to Ruth through her marriage to Mahlon, Boaz realized that he stood second in line to be her Kinsman-Redeemer. A part he would very much like to play. But Ruth had to make the first move. And, so, he waited, For weeks.

When Ruth told Boaz she wanted him to be her Kinsman-Redeemer and marry her, Boaz was ready to fulfill her request. He knew exactly what had to be done to make that happen.

While Ruth was telling Naomi all about her previous night's adventure, Boaz set out for the city gate. He was ready to conduct legal business on Ruth's behalf. So he sat down in the gate courtyard, watching for the appearance of the nearer kinsman. He was ready to start the legal proceedings.

When He finished His work on earth, Jesus returned to heaven and sat down at the right hand of God the Father (Heb. 10:12). And from this position, He works as the legal advocate for His Church (I John 2:1). He acts as our defense attorney. So that when Satan brings a railing accusation against someone (Rev. 12:10) Jesus simply shows the Father His nail-scarred hands and declares, "This sin has been paid for; it's under the blood."

Boaz, then, as a type of Christ, has established himself at the city court to conduct business on behalf of the woman he hopes to make his bride. Like Christ, his business is redemption. He planed to "buy back" Mahlon's land and widow and raise up an heir to perpetuate Mahlon's family legacy.

Each one of us who makes up the Bride of Christ, the Church, has two built-in Paracletes. The Greek word, "parakletos" is translated "advocate" in I John 2:1 and "comforter" in John 14:26. The Greek word means, "one who is called alongside." In other words, a helper.

Jesus fulfills the role of our legal helper. When we mess up, He reminds the Father that we are forgiven. We are no longer under condemnation for our sins (Rom. 8:1). The Holy Spirit is our intellectual and emotional helper. He opens the Word to our understanding, bringing wisdom and comfort when we need it (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13-15).

Our amazing God has provided us with all the support we need to navigate this life. We have an indwelling Helper who sat down to stay in our hearts. And another Helper who sat down next to God the Father. And, all the lines of communication are open 24/7 between us and our Helpers and God.

*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find
grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16*