

## NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

### LESSON SIXTY: RUTH 4:1-2

**"Then went Boaz up to the gate, and sat him down there: and, behold, the kinsman of whom Boaz spake came by; unto whom he said, Ho, such a one! turn aside, sit down here. And he turned aside and sat down. And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, Sit ye down here. And they sat down."**

Boaz had important business to transact in the city gate that day. His future depended on a successful outcome. More importantly, the future of the woman he loved depended on what he did that day.

Thus, Boaz sat down at the gate courtyard where local business was transacted daily (except on the Sabbath). He, then, began to gather the people he would need to complete his contract. First, he hailed his kinsman. The man who would serve as the other principal in his legal negotiations. Then, he gathered his witnesses.

At the time, witnesses were important for any type of business dealings between two or more principals. Why Boaz chose 10 witnesses is not explained. It was not a requirement of the Law to have that many witnesses. Maybe Boaz just wanted to be thorough. He desired to ensure that no question of legitimacy would ever attach to his marriage contract with Ruth. Thus, Boaz chose ten elders. Not just anyone would do for Boaz that day. He wanted respected leaders of the community. Men whose testimony would never be doubted. Boaz was packing the court!

It must be noted that Boaz was held in such high respect that he was able to get the cooperation of 10 city elders without advance notice. At least, there is no indication in Scripture that Boaz contacted his witnesses beforehand. In the future, if there were any questions regarding the redemption of Ruth, Boaz would be able to bring forth 10 witnesses of impeccable character.

Once again we see a picture of Christ in the actions of Boaz. Jesus came to earth with the intention of redeeming His bride, the Church. He left His home in Heaven temporarily and settled into His humanity in order to execute His part of the marriage contract. He chose twelve, not ten, witnesses.

But His witnesses were not elders or leaders of the community. Jesus' witnesses were fishermen and tax collectors. Ordinary men whose lives were forever changed when they witnessed the redemption of His Bride.

There is another important difference between the roles of Boaz and Jesus' witnesses. Boaz would only need his witnesses to testify if his contract were challenged. Jesus commanded His witnesses to testify to everyone they met everywhere they went. They spread the Redemption Story all over the world.

If you have received Jesus as your Savior, then you have already been recruited as a witness. Your job is to tell others your personal Redemption Story. How did you meet your Kinsman-Redeemer? What has He done for you? During the lowest point in your life, amidst the hurt and sorrow and grief, how did the Redeemer touch your life? You have a story that is uniquely yours. Only you can tell it. Who knows who is out there waiting to hear from you?

*"I will remember the works of the Lord: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings." Psalm 77:1-2*