

# Seeking Your Redeemer.

Leaving a Legacy.

## *How to leave a legacy.*

1. Bloom where you are planted. (Ruth 1)
2. Be faithful in the small things. (Ruth 2)
3. Seek your redeemer. (Ruth 3)

The critical factor in leaving a lasting spiritual legacy is recognizing your own spiritual condition and your need to seek your Redeemer.

## The cultural context of Ruth chapter 3.

*In Israelite culture, the husband and wife were a functional unit who worked together to leave a legacy for their children.*

*The husband (patriarch) functioned as a judge and lawmaker in the community. (see Ruth 4:1-2 for an example of how this worked).*

*The wife (matriarch) functioned as a business leader who oversaw the day to day operations of the family business.*

## *The wife's (matriarch's) role is described in Proverbs 31.*

1. She was well dressed (31:22).
2. She bought and sold fields (31:16).
3. She oversaw planting of crops and harvest (31:16).
4. She met daily with her servants and oversaw their work duties (31:15).
5. She sought profitable deals to increase her family's wealth (31:18).
6. She helped the poor (31:20).

## The imagery of brokenness.

*Boaz is a landowner with no matriarch. Ruth is a land-inheritor with no patriarch.*

*God is close to you when you feel broken.*

*The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God. (Psalm 51:17, NLT)*

*God is willing to save the broken hearted.*

*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed. (Psalm 34:18, NLT)*

*God will act in a way that works within his overall plan for salvation.*

*And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. (Romans 8:28, NLT)*

### **God sends Ruth a Family Redeemer (Go'el).**

*"May the Lord bless him!" Naomi told her daughter-in-law. "He is showing his kindness to us as well as to your dead husband. That man is one of our closest relatives, one of our family redeemers." (Ruth 2:20, NLT)*

- 1. The family-redeemer was responsible to buy a fellow Israelite out of slavery (Leviticus 25:48).*
- 2. He was responsible to be the "avenger of blood" to make sure the murderer of a family member answered to the crime (Numbers 35:19).*
- 3. He was responsible to buy back family land that had been forfeited (Leviticus 25:25).*
- 4. He was responsible to carry on the family name by marrying a childless widow (Deuteronomy 25:5-10).*

### **Ruth seeks her Family Redeemer.**

*One day Naomi said to Ruth, "My daughter, it's time that I found a permanent home for you, so that you will be provided for. Boaz is a close relative of ours, and he's been very kind by letting you gather grain with his young women. Tonight he will be winnowing barley at the threshing floor. (Ruth 3:1-2, NLT)*

*Now do as I tell you—take a bath and put on perfume and dress in your nicest clothes. Then go to the threshing floor, but don't let Boaz see you until he has finished eating and drinking. Be sure to notice where he lies*

down; then go and uncover his feet and lie down there. He will tell you what to do.” (Ruth 3:3–4, NLT)

“Who are you?” he asked. “I am your servant Ruth,” she replied. “Spread the corner of your covering over me, for you are my family redeemer.” (Ruth 3:9, NLT)

“The Lord bless you, my daughter!” Boaz exclaimed. “You are showing even more family loyalty now than you did before, for you have not gone after a younger man, whether rich or poor. (Ruth 3:10, NLT)

## How does the idea of a Family Redeemer point us toward Jesus?

*Jesus is your only qualified redeemer.*

*For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. (Romans 3:23, NLT)*

*Jesus became human.*

*Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. (Hebrews 2:14, NLT)*

*Jesus lived a sinless life.*

*This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most. (Hebrews 4:15–16, NLT)*

*Jesus is a willing redeemer.*

*For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45, NLT)*

*Jesus met the obligations for your redemption.*

*And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him. (Hebrews 9:27–28, NLT)*

*Jesus paid the price for your redemption.*

*For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. (1 Peter 1:18–19, NLT)*