**Our Kinsman Redeemer**

A Brief Commentary

by

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**Our Kinsman Redeemer**

*John 1:26,27 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; He it is, who coming after me is* ***preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.***

**What is he referring to here?**

An old Jewish custom, whereby if a man died leaving a wife, his nearest kinsman (usually a brother if he had one) was to marry that wife and raise up children for the dead man so that dead man’s heritage could be carried on. If he could not, or would not marry her and take on this responsibility, his shoe was removed from his foot, and the next nearer kinsman would then take her to wife. The kinsman who refused would then be known a man with the shoe loosed off his foot. (Perhaps this is where we get the statement “stepping into another’s shoes.”) The kinsman who married the wife of the dead man became her kinsman redeemed.

*Ruth 1:1-6 Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons. And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there. And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons. And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years. And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband. Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread.*

Who were these people of Moab? Remember Lot when the angels of the Lord led him and his wife and 2 daughters out from Sodom? His wife looked back and became a pillar of salt. So only Lot and his daughters escaped into the hills. Then believing they were all that was left of the human race. The daughters made Lot drunk and slept with him. The oldest daughter had a son of that union and called him Moab.

*Genesis 19:31: And the firstborn said unto the younger, Our father is old, and there is not a man in the earth to come in unto us after the manner of all the earth.*

*Genesis 19:37,38 And the firstborn bare a son, and called his name Moab:* ***the same is the father of the Moabites unto this day.***

*And the younger, she also bare a son, and called his name Benammi: the same is the father of the children of Ammon unto this day.* (These were children of incest)

**Ruth and Orpah were Moabites:**

Now we come in contact with Moabites several times in Scripture. Once is where the Children of Israel wanted to cross their land on their way to the promised land of Canaan. Not only did the Moabites refuse to allow them to cross their land, but they hired Balaam to curse them.

*Numbers 22:6 Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.*

**As a result God said they would not be allowed to enter into the congregation of The Lord**

*Deuteronomy 23:3: An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD* ***for ever****:*

In verses 6 through 14 of this chapter Naomi tells Ruth and Orphah to return to their own people and to their gods. However Ruth does not want to leave her mother in law, and she turns her back on her old ways and says she wishes to stay with Naomi and follow Naomi’s God

*Ruth 1:16,17 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and* ***thy God my God:*** *Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.*

*Ruth 1:22: So Naomi returned, and* ***Ruth the Moabitess,*** *her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.*

*Ruth 2:1,2 And Naomi had a* ***kinsman*** *of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was* ***Boaz****.*

*And* ***Ruth the Moabitess*** *said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and* ***glean ears of corn*** *after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.*

**God’s direction concerning Gleaning**:

*Leviticus 23:22 And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shall not make clean riddance of the corners of thy field when thou reapest, neither shalt thou gather any gleaning of thy harvest: thou shalt leave them unto the poor, and to the stranger: I am the LORD your God.*

**Boaz, was a Godly man:**

*Ruth 2:4: And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said unto the reapers, The LORD be with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee.*

*Ruth 2:19,20 And her mother in law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned to day? and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And she shewed her mother in law with* *whom she had wrought, and said, The* ***man's name with whom I wrought to day is Boaz.*** *And Naomi said unto her daughter in law,* ***Blessed be he of the LORD, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead.*** *And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen.*

In chapter three we see where Ruth wins the favor of Boaz. And verses 7 through 11 we read**:**

*Ruth 3:7-11 And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down. And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet. And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman. And he said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich. And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.*

When Ruth laid down at the feet of Boaz, she was not doing an so as an evil act, but only presenting herself to Boaz showing her willingness to be his wife. To take her as a wife was the duty of a kinsman. However unknown to Ruth there was a nearer kinsman than Boaz.

*Ruth 4:1-22 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. And he said unto the kinsman, Naomi, that is come again out of the country of Moab, selleth a parcel of land, which was our brother* *Elimelech's: And I thought to advertise thee, saying, Buy it before the inhabitants, and before the elders of my people. If thou wilt redeem it, redeem it: but if thou wilt not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know: for there is none to redeem it beside thee; and I am after thee.* ***And he said, I will redeem it.*** *Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy it also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead,* ***to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance****.*

*And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it.* ***Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe****, and gave it to his neighbour: and this was a testimony in Israel.* *Therefore the kinsman said unto Boaz,* ***Buy it for thee. So he drew off his shoe.*** *And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.* ***Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife****, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day. And all the people that were in the gate, and the elders, said,* ***We are witnesses****. The LORD make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem: And let thy house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which the LORD shall give thee of this young woman. So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son.* *And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel. And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him. And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom ,and became nurse unto it. And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and* ***they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David****. Now these are the generations of Pharez: Pharez begat Hezron, And Hezron begat Ram, and Ram begat Amminadab, And Amminadab begat Nahshon, and Nahshon begat Salmon, And Salmon begat Boaz, and Boaz begat Obed, And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.*

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Jesus Christis our Creator, Our Saviour, **Our Kinsman redeemer***.*

Ruth was a Moabitess, Condemned forever from entering into the congregation of Our Lord, but when she turned unconditionally to God, she was admitted. In fact she became part of the earthly lineage of our Lord Jesus Christ. God can take the impossible and make it possible.

My friends, **we** are unworthy to enter into the congregation of The Lord, just as the Moabites were. We are just as guilty as they were, for we, as unsaved sinners, refused to allow Christ into our lives. For this we have been condemned to eternal hell*.*

*John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life;* ***but the wrath of God abideth on him****.*

BUT as God made a way for Ruth to enter into the Congregation He made a way for us also. Through the Shed blood of Our Lord, He will take our sin, and Give us His righteousness,. and make us able to enter into God's Kingdom. We were lost forever, condemned, until our kinsman redeemer redeemed us.

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John said he was unworthy to unloose the shoe latchet of Jesus shoe, because Jesus accomplished the part of **Kinsman redeemer** for us.

Praise God our Lord Jesus Christ saved us through His shed blood, made us part of His family, and became **our** **Kinsman Redeemer**.

Dear reader, have you trusted Christ for salvation. If not, you are condemned to an eternity in Hell. But, if you will turn from your sin unto Christ and ask His forgiveness, He will save you and place you into His family forever. He will be **your** **Kinsman redeemer**.

 *John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*