

# Ruth & Boaz

Couples of the Bible  
Lesson 3 (continued)



## Intro:

Using this lesson about Ruth and Boaz, we've determined a few things about love:

- Love is staying when it would be easier to go.
- Love is helping those who need help.
- Love is putting someone else before your self.

## What is love?

Remember that as Ruth's "Kinsman-Redeemer", Boaz was committing to a lot. He was committing to a woman whose first son wouldn't carry on his name. He was committing to land that he was bound to lose. He was committing to caring for a widow and her mother-in-law. And so Boaz teaches us something about love: Love is putting someone else before yourself.

1. Take 30 seconds and rate yourself on a scale of 1-10 on how well you put others first. 10 is perfection, 1 is utter failure.
2. Does your rating matter? The Pharisees asked Jesus, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" (Matthew 22:36). Perhaps they expected him to pick one of the Ten Commandments. Maybe the First - "You shall have no other gods."

But Jesus' answer was more complete than that. He said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Your selfless rating matters. What does God demand that it be?

3. But Jesus didn't only profess this truth. He lived it. Fill in the blanks in the following passages and discuss how Jesus defined love as putting someone else before yourself.

Mark 10:45

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be \_\_\_\_\_ but to \_\_\_\_\_, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Philippians 2:7-8

Jesus "made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human

likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he \_\_\_\_\_ himself and

became obedient to death – even death on a \_\_\_\_\_!

4. Jesus' self-sacrifice ensures that we are forgiven. Our sin-ransom has been paid. This good news motivates us to imitate Jesus and his love.

Take a quiet moment to yourself. Contemplate how you can put others before yourself in your role as:

Spouse	Parent	Grandparent	Aunt/Uncle	Child
Church member		Employee	Neighbor	Friend

## Part 4

A promise kept

Ruth 4:1-22

<sup>1</sup>Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat there. When the kinsman-redeemer he had mentioned came along, Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down.

<sup>2</sup>Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so. <sup>3</sup>Then he said to the kinsman-redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our brother Elimelech. <sup>4</sup>I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line."

"I will redeem it," he said. (vs 1-4)

5. If you need to get a wedding certificate, birth certificate, or another official document, where do you go? Note where Boaz went in verse 1.

6. Boaz said that Naomi is “selling the piece of land” that belonged to her husband. If it was already hers, why did Ruth have to glean in the fields for food? Why did they need Boaz at all?

7. Boaz only mentioned Naomi’s land to the nearer relative. He agreed to redeem it. But what kinsman-redeemer responsibility hadn’t been mentioned yet?

<sup>5</sup>Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi and from Ruth the Moabitess, **you acquire** the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property."

<sup>6</sup>At this, the kinsman-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it."

<sup>7</sup>(Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.)

<sup>8</sup>So the kinsman-redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it yourself." And he removed his sandal. (5-8)

8. What was the removal of this man’s sandal to signify?

9. If we understand what the Hebrew is saying in verse 9, Boaz is indicating that he already plans to marry Ruth. Therefore, the nearer relative no longer wants to purchase the land. Why would knowing about Boaz’s marriage to Ruth influence the nearer relative’s decision?

<sup>9</sup>Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion and Mahlon. <sup>10</sup>I have also acquired Ruth the Moabitess, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from the town records. Today you are witnesses!"

<sup>11</sup>Then the elders and all those at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. <sup>12</sup>Through the offspring the Lord gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah."

10. Those present at the agreement gave Boaz their blessing. Discuss what they were wishing for Boaz and Ruth.

a. They prayed that Ruth would be "like Rachel and Leah"

b. They prayed that Boaz would have "standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem"

c. They prayed that Boaz's family would "be like that of Perez"