

# Study of Ruth: Redemption Day

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## Scripture Focus: Ruth 4:1-10

Our last lesson ended with Ruth returning home after having gone to the threshing floor to find Boaz, positioning herself at his feet, signaling her willingness for him to serve as her kinsman-redeemer, to protect and bless her. Boaz definitely has the next move, to find out first if another man, “more closely related than I,” is willing to “act as next-of-kin for you.” Regardless of what Boaz felt in his heart toward Ruth, and there is every indication he was both impressed with Ruth and fond of her, Boaz had to follow protocol and do things right. His integrity required him to do no less. Here is the process:

1. Boaz went to the town gate of Bethlehem. This is where personal business and civic affairs of the people took place. (4:1)
2. The kinsman closer to Elimelech than Boaz came by the gate. He is not named, which might be an indication he was not necessarily respected. The man sat and then Boaz called 10 men to come and serve as witnesses. (v. 2)
3. Boaz told the man that land belonging to Elimelech’s family was available for redemption and as a closer relative, he could redeem it. This man said he would, that is, UNTIL Ruth was mentioned. (v. 3-4) The man was interested in the land but not the person of Ruth, citing concerns over the effect it would have on his own inheritance. (v. 6) He told Boaz to do it.
4. The deal was sealed, in front of witnesses, as “the one took off a sandal and gave it to another.” (v. 7) Boaz would serve as the kinsman-redeemer.

The demonstrated integrity and grace of Boaz, Ruth, and Naomi cannot be overstated. Their choices and their words speak volumes! It all should inspire us to consider, what sort of people are we? Are we people of integrity who consider the interests of others before our own?

Are we people of integrity who put our trust in the Lord, whose steadfast love endures forever? Do we follow and (literally or online) keep company with people of integrity? Will we humbly pray with David, “...judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness and according to the integrity that is in me.” (Psalm 7:8b)