

Boaz the Redeemer

It was a difficult time. “There was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his _____ eyes” (Judg 21:25). And on top of it all, “there was a famine in the land.” A man named **Elimelech** left his home in Bethlehem of Judah and sojourned in the country of Moab. He and his wife **Naomi** had two sons—Mahlon and Chilion—who married Moabite women. Eventually, Naomi’s husband and both sons died. One daughter-in-law went back home, but the other, named _____, promised to stay with Naomi as long as she lived (Ruth 1:16-17).

As Naomi and Ruth came back to Bethlehem, they had very little and it was a dangerous time. How would they survive?

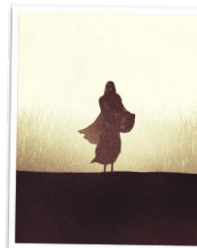
Now Naomi had a relative of her husband’s, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was _____. (Ruth 2:1)

A very special word is used to describe what Boaz did for Ruth and Naomi. He served as a _____ (Ruth 3:9). A “redeemer” in the Law of Moses could help a family that had gone through tough times “redeem” their land that had been sold (Lev 25:23-25). Boaz didn’t *have* to help Ruth and Naomi; he **chose** to help them when they couldn’t help themselves (Ruth 3:13). **But what does this have to do with our search for our King?**

Isaiah 59:1-2 describes the most desperate, hopeless situation of all—**our** problem apart from God. But in that same chapter, God made a promise:

“A _____ will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression.” (59:20)

In fact, this Redeemer would come from the family line that included “Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth” (Matt 1:5-6). His name is **Jesus**, and he saves, he “redeems” his people from their sins (Matt 1:21; Titus 2:13-14).



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Can you think of an example of something being “redeemed” in everyday terms? What might some modern instances of “redemption” look like that can help us get the concept clear in our minds?
- The last verse of *Judges* described a sad situation in Israel. How would you summarize the state of things in your own words? How and why does that sort of behavior lead to really tough times?
- Naomi and Ruth faced a very tough situation. How do passages like **Romans 6:16-19; 7:14, Titus 2:11-14, and Mark 10:42-45** help us see *our* situation apart from God as even more serious?
- We’ve visited the genealogy recorded by Matthew in the introduction of his Gospel in recent lessons. What’s the significance of the names in **Matthew 1:5-6**? Does it tell us anything about Jesus’ own mission?