

In last week's message, Boaz told Ruth that he was a kinsman-redeemer, but there was a relative closer than him. He said that the closer relative should be asked first if he would redeem the property. Then Boaz went to the city gate first (verse 1). He called the closer relative of Elimelech and discussed the matter of redeeming the property before ten elders (verse 2). Boaz briefly explained the situation to the kinsman-redeemer (verses 3-4). Upon hearing this, the kinsman-redeemer immediately responded without hesitation, even before Boaz finished speaking, "I will redeem it" (verse 4). Then Boaz detailed what would be required of him if he redeemed the property (verse 5). Simply put, it would cost a lot of money to redeem this property, and in the end, it would have to be passed down to Ruth's children.

Upon hearing this explanation, the kinsman-redeemer reconsidered and decided to give up his right to redeem, stepping back. His reason was clear: "I might endanger my own estate" (verse 6).

"I cannot redeem it for myself, so you redeem it yourself; I cannot do it" (Ruth 4:6). It is interesting to note how many times the word "I" appears in this short sentence. The Bible deliberately repeats the phrase "I cannot redeem it." The Bible shows us exactly how this kinsman-redeemer, waving his hand, says, "I absolutely will not redeem that property," and steps back.

What is God's assessment of someone who gives up their right by removing their sandal? What is the Bible's evaluation? He is a smart person, avoiding anything that might cause him or his possessions harm. The Bible refers to him in Ruth 4:1 as 'Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down"'. Is his name really "my friend"? No. The Hebrew term "Peloni Almoni" just refers to a certain person, commonly translated as "so-and-so." Did Boaz not know his name? Of course, he did. In a small village, especially among relatives, they surely knew each other's names. However, the Bible records the name of the person who gave up his right as "so-and-so." Perhaps the Holy Spirit, the writer of the Bible, felt there was no need to record the name of someone who forfeited the opportunity to save his relatives. His name doesn't need to be remembered. It may even be a kindness from the Lord not to record it. If his name had been written, it would have been shameful.

The kinsman-redeemer who gave up his right became "the one who removed his sandal." Now, the kinsman-redeemer is Boaz. Boaz declares in verses 9-10. Boaz asks the elders and the people gathered there to be witnesses to this matter. He says two things. One, he will buy the property of Elimelech, and the other is that he will marry Ruth and have children through her to continue the family line of Elimelech.

From a worldly perspective, Boaz is a fool. According to "the one who removed his sandal," Boaz's choice not only fails to benefit him or his estate but also causes him a loss. It is a waste. But God, through the ten elders, reveals how He will bless Boaz and his descendants. Verses 11-12. Tremendous blessings are poured out. Though it is a difficult and challenging task, this message shows that foolish obedience leads to blessings when viewed through the eyes of spiritual faith.

In the Bible, there is a fool among fools from a worldly perspective (Romans 5:6-8). We were weak. We were ungodly. We were sinners. We were even enemies. But there is someone who left His heavenly throne, came to earth in human form, and was crucified for us. Occasionally, someone might die for a righteous person, and some might dare to die for a good person, but to die for a sinner, a weak person, an enemy, is foolishness. That fool is our Jesus.

Therefore, the true kinsman-redeemer, the redeemer, is Jesus. And we are the recipients of this redemption grace.

We are all people who have experienced this love. God's love, which gave us not just a part of Himself but all of Himself, has been poured out on us. This love makes us breathe and live. It also leads us to be people who love like fools, following Jesus.

Bible Memorization

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:7-8).

Bible Reading

9/2(Mon)	9/3(Tue)	9/4(Wed)	9/5(Thur)	9/6(Fri)	9/7(Sat)	9/8(Sun)
Jeremiah 49-50	Jeremiah 51	Jeremiah 52, Lamentation 1	Lamentation 2-3	Lamentation 4-5, Ezekiel 1-2	Ezekiel 3-6	Ezekiel 7-10

QT

Quiet Time Passage

8/12(Mon)	8/13(Tue)	8/14(Wed)	8/15(Thur)	8/16(Fri)	8/17(Sat)	8/18(Sun)
Nehemiah 2:1-10	Nehemiah 2:11-20	Nehemiah 3:1-14	Nehemiah 3:15-32	Nehemiah 4:1-14	Nehemiah 4:15-23	Nehemiah 5:1-13

Sharing Questions

1. Share something new you realized or were blessed by from today’s message.

2. Reflect on the meaning of Jesus being the true kinsman-redeemer who loved and saved you with foolish love, and share your thoughts and confessions.

3. As you believe in Jesus, examine whether you are closer to Boaz or "so-and-so."