

# Saint Luke Presbyterian Church

## Wednesday Morning Bible Study



## *The Book of Ruth*

Note that while the book of Ruth comes after Judges, the events in Ruth occur during the time of Judges. Judges ends with the statement that: “Every man did that which was right in his own eyes.” However, we see in Ruth the story of one man, Boaz, who continued to do what was right in God’s eyes. What do we learn from this about biblical word use (in this case, the word “every”)? How did God deal with Boaz?

Based upon Naomi’s actions and words, how would you characterize her faith? (Consider the following verses in chapter 1: 1,6,13,20 & 21.) How would you contrast Naomi’s attitude with Ruth’s? Neither Naomi nor Ruth could have known that their names and lives would be recorded in Scripture and discussed for THOUSANDS of years. If your life were recorded and opened up to scrutiny as theirs was, would you be like Ruth? Boaz? Naomi?

The story told in Ruth is one of blessings poured out on faithful people (see 2:11-12). God often bestows His blessings through people. What kind of people does God use to do this? What immediate blessing did Boaz receive for his faithfulness to God in blessing Ruth (see 3:10)?

The book of Ruth is best known for Ruth’s beautiful oath of loyalty to Naomi, but it is best known *theologically* for its illustration of the concept of the “kinsman redeemer”. Some important points about the kinsman redeemer are:

1. He had to be a biological relative, not just a friend;
2. He was responsible to restore life to a line that would otherwise die (by marrying the widow of a dead brother and raising up a son);
3. He was the avenger for wrongs done to his family;
4. He was responsible to redeem the estate of a family member lost through poverty.

Notice that Jesus is OUR Kinsman Redeemer in all of these ways:

1. “Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity . . . Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.” Heb 2:14, 11
2. “But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved.” Eph 2:4-5
3. “. . . so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil.” Heb 2:14
4. “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” 2Cor 8:9

What was the ultimate blessing God bestowed on Boaz and Ruth for their faithfulness (see Mat 1:1-16)?