

**Series:** The Gospel According to Ruth

**Sermon:** Redemption

**Main Scripture:** Ruth 3 (NASB)

**Supporting Scripture:** Isaiah 43:1 ; John 14:1-3 ; Matthew 3:11-12 ; Colossians 3:17 ; Leviticus 25:25-55; Deuteronomy 25:5-10.

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**Date:** January 21, 2024

**Message Takeaway:** Redemption comes with a price and demands commitment.

### Supporting Thoughts:

- Redemption: To pay a ransom for a debt; to buy out. The means by which a lost family member was restored to a place of security within the kinship circle. (Lev. 25:25-55; Deut.25:5-10).
- Jewish culture: family is the axis of the community.
- Patriarch – the oldest living male member of a family who is responsible for all the family does or fails to do. (Think Abraham’s story). Function: Provision and Protection.
- Basic household unit = “bet’ab” (pronounced bait-hav) = Father’s House. Function: Provision and Protection.
- Layers of ancient Mid-East/Hebrew society: Patriarch...clan...tribe...nation
- Patrilineal: Male line of inheritance. The system in place to ensure inheritance stayed in the clan and tribe, traced through the male line. (Think Abraham getting his son, Isaac, a wife so he can keep the line going.) Function: Provision and Protection.
- Patrilocal: Local household. Living space of the family unit, built around the oldest living male, the patriarch. (Think “family compound”). Function once again: Provision and protection.
- Garden of Eden: God’s original “bet’ab” polluted => rescue mission Genesis through Revelation; (John 14:1-3) => Earth Restored (Rev 21 – New heaven, new earth = original ‘bet’ab” restored.)
- Threshing floor: A place of separation and judgment but also a place of commitment.
- Threshing floor moment: A decision point in life that requires great faith in a time of great risk.
- Do your best, let God take care of the rest.
- Challenge: Love God, Love others. It takes commitment!

### Discussion Questions

- Review and discuss the concept of redemption (Patriarch/local/lineal). How does the story of Ruth...and our story fit into that.
- People often accuse God of being a male chauvinist. How did this whole system of redemption/bet’ab protect women of that time?
- Have you ever had a “threshing floor moment”? Share with your group.

- Are you currently in a “threshing floor moment”? Four things to do as you seek God’s will: Pray, seek scripture for godly principles, ask for counsel by godly men and women, and carefully review the circumstances.
- Ruth said, “All that you say, I will do.” With that, she showed great commitment. Is there a place in your life in which you are lacking commitment, emotionally, physically, spiritually? What’s a good next step? Are you willing to share that with your small group?

**Sources/Theologians/Scholars:** Warren Wiersbe (Old Testament Commentary), Eugene Peterson (Five Smooth Stones For Pastoral Work – Ruth), J.Vernon McGee (Through the Bible Commentary), Tony Merida (Ruth for You), Kris Langham (Through the Word Bible App), Sandra Richter (The Epic of Eden: A Christian Entry into the Old Testament).

*\*Note – most of my teaching this week on Redemption came from Sandra Richter’s excellent survey of the Old Testament, “Epic of Eden,” pp. 22-46.*

**Other Notes from Kip’s Teaching:**