

**Study Questions for the December 13, 2020 Sermon:
“When the Fallen World Takes, Grace Redeems”
Ruth 1-4, Matthew 1:1-6**

1. There are always people who will exploit or hurt vulnerable members of society. Ruth would have been a “target” for unscrupulous people for several reasons: A young woman, a widow, poor, a Moabite. And her familial connection to Boaz was tenuous. Name another story in the Bible in which someone chooses to help and protect a vulnerable person.
2. *Redeem*: 1) gain or regain possession of (something) in exchange for payment.
2) fulfill or carry out (a pledge or promise). (Merriam-Webster).

Kinsman-redeemer: a male relative who, according to various laws of the Pentateuch, had the privilege or responsibility to act on behalf of a relative who was in trouble, danger, or need. (GotQuestions.org)
 - a. In what sense did Boaz redeem Ruth and Naomi?
 - b. Jesus said (John 5:39) *Search the scriptures... they are they which testify of me*. Can you think of any ways in which the book of Ruth testifies of Jesus?
3. Boaz, being wealthy, single, and decent, likely could have found a spouse that would have improved his social standing and increased his wealth. Why were Boaz and Ruth attracted to each other? Support your answer with scripture.
4. Boaz acted out of decency at first, and then out of love. Pastor Paul made the point that what must have seemed to the participants to be a local event, actually had monumental, history-changing, implications.
 - a. Name another Biblical event in which what seemed to be a minor or local decision had:
 - i. Ruinous consequences.
 - ii. Highly beneficial consequences.
 - b. Share a personal event in which you stood for what was right, or acted graciously, and as a result there were great and unanticipated blessings.
5. The story of Ruth occurs during an unstable time in Hebrew history. Many Jews embraced Pagan gods, Israel was frequently invaded, and moral relativism was dominant. *Everyone did what was right in his own eyes*. (Judges 21:25). Recite a Bible verse that encourages believers to NOT ground themselves morally in their culture.