



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

God is Our Rescuer Series, Lesson 25

Lesson Title: There Is Someone Who
Will Rescue You

Take Home Point: You need a redeemer – Jesus.

Warm-Up:

A friend of mine has a valuable guitar he has owned since he was in high school. At one time, he was unable to find a job and was short on cash. As much as he hated to do it, my friend took his guitar to a pawn shop for some badly needed money. Later, he told me about the ticket with which he could redeem his guitar. "I took care of that ticket as if my life depended on it," he said. "I was so afraid someone would buy my guitar before I could buy it back for myself. That little scrap of paper represented my treasure, and I couldn't wait to get it back."

Read: Ruth 1-4

Observation (What happened?):

Why did Ruth return to Bethlehem with Naomi?

What did Boaz do for Ruth, and indirectly, for Naomi as well?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why did Boaz treat Ruth so well? Why do you think he responded so positively to Ruth asking him to be a kinsman-redeemer?

What do you think God wanted to teach the Israelites by recording the account of Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz in the Scriptures?

Insight:

What a contrast we have in last week's lesson about Samson and this week's lesson about Ruth! Samson was all about himself; Ruth was all about others. Nothing in the record indicates that Samson ruled Israel wisely. He lived violently, with a passion for satisfying his own desires before thinking of anyone else. He considered himself better than others and viewed revenge as his right and responsibility. Ruth demonstrated a sensitive heart by returning with Naomi and was obedient in following instructions for how to deal with Boaz. But she also showed strength of character in her hard work to support Naomi and her deference to Boaz as kinsman-redeemer. She was not a judge or ruler of Israel, but Ruth's life was recorded in Scripture as an example of grace and humility, as someone God was pleased to please. And although she certainly did not know it at the time, as the great-grandmother of King David she was part of the lineage of Jesus, the Redeemer of all mankind.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What price did Jesus pay for you to be freed? Have you accepted his redemption? Have you thanked him for it today?

Pray for the children in your small group to understand how much God values them as individuals.