



Boaz

*The Husband of Ruth
An Ancestor of
Jesus Christ*

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Overview

Boaz

Boaz is considered a hero in his story is told in the book of Ruth.

He is also mentioned in Matthew 1:5.

Heroes are easier to admire than to define. They are seldom conscious of their moments of heroism, and others may not recognize their acts as heroic.

Heroes simply do the right thing at the right time, whether or not they realize the impact their action will have.

Perhaps the one quality they share is a tendency to think of others before they think of themselves. Boaz was a hero. In his dealings with other people, he was always sensitive to their needs.

His words to his employees, relatives, and others were colored with kindness. He offered help openly, not grudgingly.

When he discovered who Ruth was, he took several steps to help her because she had been faithful to his relative Naomi.

When Naomi advised Ruth to request his protection, he was ready to marry her if the legal complications could be worked out. Boaz not only did what was right; he also did it right away.

Of course he could not foresee all that his actions would accomplish. He could not have known that the child he would have by Ruth would be an ancestor of both David and Jesus.

He only met the challenge of taking the right action in the situation facing him.

Boaz an ancestor of Jesus

The Genealogy of Jesus

Matthew 1:1-17 review.

Concerning this genealogy of our Saviour, observe the chief intention. It is not a needless genealogy. It is not a vain-glorious one, as those of great men often are.

It proves that our Lord Jesus is of the nation and family out of which the Messiah was to arise.

The promise of the blessing was made to Abraham and his seed; of the dominion, to David and his seed. It was promised to Abraham that Christ should descend from him, Gen 12:3; Gen 22:18;

The promise was also made to David that he should descend from him, 2Sa 7:12; Ps 89:3; Ps 132:11 .

Now this is here proved from well-known records. When the Son of God was pleased to take our nature, he came near to us, in our fallen, wretched condition; but he was perfectly free from sin: and while we read the names in his genealogy, we should not forget how low the Lord of glory stooped to save the human race.

Matthew 1:5

Salmon was the father of Boaz (his mother was Rahab). Boaz was the father of Obed (his mother was Ruth). Obed was the father of Jesse.

History of Boaz

Ruth Gleans in the Field of Boaz

Ruth 2:1-3 review

Observe Ruth's humility. When Providence had made her poor, she cheerfully stoops to her lot. High spirits will rather starve than stoop; not so Ruth. Nay, it is her own proposal. She speaks humbly in her expectation of leave to glean.

We may not demand kindness as a debt, but ask, and take it as a favour, though in a small matter.

Ruth also was an example of industry. She loved not to eat the bread of idleness. This is an example to all people.

Diligence promises well, both for this world and the other. We must not be shy of any honest employment. No labour is a reproach.

Sin is a thing below us, but we must not think anything else so, to which Providence call us.

She was an example of regard to her mother, and of trust in Providence. God wisely orders what seem to us small events; and those that appear altogether uncertain, still are directed to serve his own glory, and the good of his people.

The Kindness of Boaz to Ruth

Ruth 2:4-16 review

The pious and kind language between Boaz and his reapers shows that there were godly persons in Israel.

Such language as this is seldom heard in our field; too often, on the contrary, what is immoral and corrupt. A stranger would form a very different opinion of our land, from that which Ruth would form of Israel from the converse and conduct of Boaz and his reapers. But true religion will teach a man to behave aright in all states and conditions; it will form kind masters and faithful servants, and cause harmony in families.

True religion will cause mutual love and kindness among persons of different ranks. It had these effects on Boaz and his men.

When he came to them he prayed for them. They returned his courtesy. Things are likely to go on well where there is such good-will as this between masters and servants. They expressed their kindness to each other by praying one for another.

Boaz inquired concerning the stranger he saw, and ordered her to be well treated.

Masters must take care, not only that they do no hurt themselves, but that they suffer not their servants and those under them to do wrong.

Ruth humbly owned herself unworthy of favours, seeing she was born and brought up a heathen.

It becomes us all to think humbly of ourselves, esteeming others better than ourselves. And let us, in the kindness of Boaz to Ruth, note the kindness of the Lord Jesus Christ to poor sinners.

Ruth Returns to Her Mother-in-Law

Ruth 2:17-23 review

It encourages industry that in all labour, even that of gleaning, there is profit. Ruth was pleased with what she gained by her own industry, and was careful to secure it.

Let us thus take care that we lose not those things which we have wrought, which we have gained for our souls' good, 2Jn 1:8.

Parents should examine their children, as Naomi did, not to frighten or discourage them, so as to make them hate home, or tempt them to tell a lie; but to commend them if they have done well, and with mildness to reprove and caution them if they have done otherwise.

It is a good question for us to ask ourselves every night, where have I gleaned to-day? What improvement have I made in knowledge and grace? What have I done that will turn to a good account?

When the Lord deals bountifully with us, let us not be found in any other field, nor seeking for happiness and satisfaction in the creature.

We lose Divine favours, if we slight them. Ruth dutifully observed her mother's directions. And when the harvest was ended, she kept her aged mother company at home. Dinah went out to see the daughters of the land; her vanity ended in disgrace, Gen 34.

Ruth kept at home, and helped to maintain her mother, and went out on no other errand than to get provision for her; her humility and industry ended in preferment.

The Directions Given to Ruth by Naomi

Ruth 3:1-5

The married state should be a rest, as much as anything upon earth can be so, as it ought to fix the affections and form a connexion for life. Therefore it should be engaged in with great seriousness, with earnest prayers for direction, for the blessing of God, and with regard to his precepts.

Parents should carefully advise their children in this important concern that it may be well with them as to their souls.

Be it always remembered, that is best for us which is best for our souls. The course Naomi advised appears strange to us; but it was according to the laws and usages of Israel. If the proposed measure had borne the appearance of evil, Naomi would not have advised it.

Law and custom gave Ruth, who was now proselyted to the true religion, a legal claim upon Boaz. It was customary for widows to assert this claim, Deut 25:5-10.

Boaz Acknowledges the Duty of a Kinsman

Ruth 3:6-13 review

What in one age or nation would be improper, is not always so in another age or another nation. Being a judge of Israel, Boaz would tell Ruth what she should do; also whether he had the right of redemption, and what methods must be taken, and what rites used, in order to accomplishing her marriage with him or another person. The conduct of Boaz calls for the highest praise.

He attempted not to take advantage of Ruth; he did not disdain her as a poor, destitute stranger, nor suspect her of any ill intentions.

He spoke honorably of her as a virtuous woman, made her a promise, and as soon as the morning arrived, sent her away with a present to her mother-in-law.

Boaz made his promise conditional, for there was a kinsman nearer than he, to whom the right of redemption belonged.

Ruth's Return to Her Mother-in-Law

Ruth 3:14-18

Ruth had done all that was fit for her to do, she must patiently wait the event.

Boaz, having undertaken this matter, would be sure to manage it well. Much more reason have true believers to cast their care on God, because he has promised to care for them.

Our strength is to sit still, Isa 30:7. This narrative may encourage us to lay ourselves by faith at the feet of Christ: He is our near Kinsman; having taken our nature upon him.

He has the right to redeem. Let us seek to receive from him his directions: Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? Acts 9:6. He will never blame us as doing this unseasonably. And let us earnestly desire and seek the same rest for our children and friends that it may be well with them also.

The Kinsman Refuses to Redeem Ruth's Inheritance

Ruth 4:1-8 review

This matter depended on the laws given by Moses about inheritances, and doubtless the whole was settled in the regular and legal manner.

This kinsman, when he heard the conditions of the bargain, refused it. In like manner many are shy of the great redemption; they are not willing to espouse religion; they have heard well of it, and have nothing to say against it; they will give it their good word, but they are willing to part with it, and cannot be bound to it, for fear of marring their own inheritance in this world.

The right was resigned to Boaz. Fair and open dealing in all matters of contract and trade, is what all must make conscience of, who would approve themselves true Israelites, without guile. Honesty will be found the best policy.

Boaz Marries Ruth

Ruth 4:9-12

Men are ready to seize opportunities for increasing their estates, but few know the value of godliness. Such are the wise men of this world, whom the Lord charges with folly.

They attend not to the concerns of their souls, but reject the salvation of Christ, for fear of marring their inheritance. But God did Boaz the honour to bring him into the line of the Messiah, while the kinsman, who was afraid of lessening himself, and marring his inheritance, has his name, family, and inheritance forgotten.

Birth of Obed

Ruth 4:13-22

Ruth bore a son, through whom thousands and myriads were born to God; and in being the lineal ancestor of Christ, she was instrumental in the happiness of all that shall be saved by him; even of us Gentiles, as well as those of Jewish descent.

She was a witness for God to the Gentile world, that he had not utterly forsaken them, but that in due time they should become one with his chosen people, and partake of his salvation.

Prayer to God attended the marriage, and praise to him attended the birth of the child

Here is the descent of David from Ruth.

And the period came when Bethlehem-Judah displayed greater wonders than those in the history of Ruth, when the outcast babe of another forlorn female of the same race appeared, controlling the counsels of the Roman master of the world, and drawing princes and wise men from the east, with treasures of gold, and frankincense, and myrrh to his feet.

His name shall endure forever, and all nations shall call Him blessed. In that Seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

Life Application

We are faced with this challenge in our daily choices. Like Naomi's nearer relative, we are often more concerned with making the easy choice than with making the right one. Yet more often than not, the right choice is clear. Ask God to give you a special awareness in your choices today as well as renewed commitment to make the right ones.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Verse Concept: Matthew Henry's Concept Bible Commentary.