

## LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

### Love the Gospel

- Does this ancient story about redeeming people from poverty in their distress really have anything to do with us? Explain.
- What is the motivation for the believer to live redemptively in the world?

### Live the Gospel

- How do Boaz and *What's-His-Name?* serve as models of people who have an authentic faith vs. those who have a pseudo-faith?
- Why is it that *What's His Names?* actions would have appeared quite normal, even wise, to those who knew him? How might this reality challenge us to examine our own selves (2 Cor. 13:5)?
- What are ways that we are tempted individually to make a name for ourselves? How are churches tempted to do this? How might this instruct us to live?
- What might it mean to say that *What's-His-Name?* lived in a transactional world of his own construction? What does Jesus say about such a kind of faith in Matthew 5, 6? How does Christ call us to live differently, sacrificially?
- When *What's-His-Name?* took off his sandal and gave it to Boaz, what was he saying? By taking the sandal, what was Boaz doing?

### Advance the Gospel

- How might we be instructed by that sandal tradition as it relates to the great commission?
- What is it that we are to proclaim when we go into all the world? In other words, in the context of Matthew, what was the Gospel proclamation? (See Matthew 3:2, 4:17.)

## Ruth: Resurrection, Righteousness, Redemption

### Will the Real Redeemer Please Stand Up?

Jerry Cisar — June 6, 2021

Text: Ruth 4:1-10

### Introduction

#### I. Contestant #1: The Redeemer?

- A. Making a Name
  - i. Babel (Gen 11: 4)
  - ii. Abraham (Gen. 12:2)
  - iii. David (2 Samuel 6, 7)
  - iv. *What's-His-Name?* and Mahlon
- B. What happened?
  - i. Naomi had sold some land and it needed to be redeemed.
    - Leviticus 25.
  - ii. *What's-His-Name?* is all for redeeming the land.
  - iii. The wrinkle (5). "I will redeem Ruth the Moabite" to resurrect the name of the dead (Mahlon) with the property!

iv. Removing His Sandal (7-8)

C. *What's-His-Name?* was only interested in making a name for himself but, as is often the case when we set out to make our own name great, God frustrated his plan.

## II. Contestant #2: The Redeemer?

A. What's really taking place with Ruth and the marriage?

- i. This is not a levirate marriage.
  - a) Levirate (or brother-in-law) marriage only applied to immediate brothers in a family (Deut. 25:5f).
  - b) Naomi, declared that there were no parties available for Orpah or Ruth.
  - c) Boaz is surprised when Ruth makes clear that she wants him to redeem her.
  - d) That Ruth has the right to marry whomever she wants (unlike under Levirate marriage laws) is made known in chapter 1, 2, and 3.
  - e) *What's-His-Name?* seems completely unaware of Ruth until Boaz mentions her.

ii. Boaz goes beyond the letter of the law and follows the heart of the Law... redemption.

B. Will the real person of faith please stand up? (9-10)

i. Boaz is an authentic person of faith whose life is a picture of and testimony to God's reign.

ii. Boaz isn't building up his own name, but God's, and because of that Mahlon's.

a) The message to the church of Sardis (Rev. 3:2, 4)

b) The message to the church in Philadelphia (Rev. 3:12)

iii. *What's-His-Name?* is a pseudo-redeemer. He has all the appearances, but none of the sacrifice. Boaz is the real redeemer... who points us to another Redeemer.

## Conclusion