

FATHER'S DAY MESSAGE

Ruth 4:13-17

INTRODUCTION: This is a special day in which we remember our fathers. Many of us have lost our fathers, but we still can give them the respect and honor they deserve. Children should take the time especially on this day to show their love and appreciation to their father. Boaz is a great example for fathers to follow.

I. CHARACTER OF BOAZ

A. BOAZ: HIS BELIEF IN GOD.

We know from the Bible that Boaz was a believer in God. He is described as a righteous and godly man of integrity and character. He followed the Law of Moses and was known in the city gate as a man of integrity. The Bible tells us that Boaz was respected in the city gate. The city gate served as the primary hub for city business. It was the center of commerce, public assembly, and worship.

B. BOAZ: HIS BLESSINGS FROM GOD.

Boaz was a wealthy landowner in Bethlehem. He had workers who respected him. Most believe Boaz was a gentle businessman who had compassion for his workers. He had the wisdom to run his business and the leadership to be successful. Ruth found her way to the field belonging to Boaz. Boaz is a prominent character in the Book of Ruth.

II. CHOICE OF RUTH

A. DECISION OF RUTH.

We learn from the Bible that Ruth was a young widow from Moab. After Ruth's husband died, she chose to live with her mother-in-law, Naomi. The two returned to Naomi's home in Bethlehem. Ruth wanted and needed to work to support Naomi and herself. Ruth began harvesting grain in a field along with other workers. She did not know at the time whose field it belonged to. The other workers came to know Ruth as a faithful and hard worker. On learning of Ruth, the Bible tells of Boaz's courtesy and kindness to Ruth. In Ruth 2:8–9, Boaz showed compassion and gentleness to her.

B. DESTINY OF RUTH

It was after Ruth returned home from working in the field that Naomi told her that she worked in a field belonging to a man named Boaz. Naomi told Ruth that Boaz was a close relative of her deceased husband, Elimelech. Boaz displayed kindness to Ruth. He ordered that extra bundles of grain be placed in the field for Ruth to find.

We see the providence of God in Boaz caring for Ruth and Naomi. God had greater things in store for Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi. Boaz was an instrument in God's hand in fulfilling His divine plan. Boaz was a very thoughtful and considerate man whom God used in a mighty way.

III. COMMITMENT OF BOAZ

A. COMMITTED TO HIS FAITH.

The Bible makes it clear that Boaz had faith in God and His Word. His faith in God is evident in the way that he cared for others. His greatest testimony is evident in his faith in serving God. How good was Boaz? Many Bible teachers believe that Boaz is a reflection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Boaz is spoken of in the Bible as a "kinsman-redeemer." A kinsman-redeemer was a male who stood in for a relative in need. In this case, it was Naomi who had gone through losing her husband and two sons in death. Boaz took responsibility for caring for Naomi and Ruth.

In Jeremiah 50:34, the Bible says, "Their Redeemer is strong; the LORD of hosts is his name: he shall thoroughly plead their cause, that he may give rest to the land, and disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon." Jesus is our redeemer. The Lord showed us compassion and gentleness. He lifted us out of our spiritual poverty and provided for our salvation from sin and judgment. In Christ, we will have our eternal home with Him in glory. The Bible says in Titus 2:14 that Jesus "gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

B. COMMITMENT TO HIS FAMILY.

The story of Boaz being the kin-redeemer and marrying Ruth is very important to the history of the Jewish people. Boaz treated Ruth with kindness and respect even though she was from Moab. We know from the Bible the importance of Boaz and his impact in the history of the lives of Naomi and

Ruth, as well as the history of the Jewish nation. The marriage of Ruth to Boaz placed her in the lineage of King David and in the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

Boaz and Ruth had a son named Obed. Obed is recognized in the Bible as the father of Jesse and the grandfather of King David. His story is told at the end of the Book of Ruth, where his birth symbolizes redemption and the restoration of Naomi's family line.

On this Father's Day, we see a great example of a good father in Boaz's life. Boaz was a man who always sought to live godly and to do the right thing. He provided for others while caring for his own family. The redeeming love of God is indeed reflected in Boaz's life.

LESSONS FOR LIFE:

1. Boaz was a man of humility who followed God's teaching.
2. Boaz was always ready to help others who were in need.
3. Boaz is an example for fathers to follow in raising their children.
4. Through Boaz and Ruth's lineage, Jesus, our redeemer, was born. Jesus is the Savior of sinners.