

DEALING WITH DISTORTIONS

2 Timothy 3:1 (NIV) *There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...*

Ruth 4:1 (ESV) *Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there. And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So Boaz said, "Turn aside, friend; sit down here." And he turned aside and sat down. ² And he took ten men of the elders of the city and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down.³ Then he said to the redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. ⁴ So I thought I would tell you of it and say, 'Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.' If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come after you." And he said, "I will redeem it."*

1). Learn how to handle Disappointment and Hurts

⁵ Then Boaz said, "The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance.⁶ Then the redeemer said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

⁷ Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel. ⁸ So when the redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself," he drew off his sandal. ⁹ Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and to Mahlon.¹⁰ Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day."

¹¹ Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem, ¹² and may

your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the LORD will give you by this young woman.”

2). Learn to trust in Jesus more than religion.

The law, the rules, the commandments, the traditions...were never meant to be more important than God himself. And that's exactly what has happened for many people! They have replaced God with religion. And the most disturbing thing of all is that their salvation has become based on what they do...their good works of following the laws or traditions or religion! Instead of salvation by faith.

Boaz and Jesus Comparisons

- Boaz was both willing and able to redeem Ruth. Jesus was both willing and able to redeem us.
- Boaz was kind and gracious in redeeming Ruth, although she was a foreigner. Jesus was both kind and gracious to redeem us, although we were foreigners, outside of God's family.
- Boaz had great riches and welcomed in a poor, destitute woman and married her. Jesus has great riches and welcomes us into His kingdom, although we are poor and destitute. He marries us, His Church, we are called the Bride of Christ.
- Boaz was a redeemer and Ruth would have died without his intervention. Jesus is our Redeemer and we would die apart from His intervention when He went to the cross. We are purchased with His blood.
- Boaz had a wonderful, secure future for Ruth. Jesus has a wonderful, secure, eternal future for us.
- Boaz followed and satisfied the law in order to marry Ruth. Jesus our Redeemer followed and satisfied the law in order for us to become His Bride.

John 1:17 (ESV) *For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

Romans 10:9 *If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.*