

CHARACTER BUILDER

MESSAGE NOTES

Boaz: Lessons on Justice Sunday, July 17 | Tommy Duke First Baptist Church of Garden City

BOAZ

(Ruth 4:1-12)

“Boaz went to the town gate and took a seat there. Just then the family redeemer he had mentioned came by, so Boaz called out to him, ‘Come over here and sit down, friend. I want to talk to you.’ So they sat down together. Then Boaz called ten leaders from the town and asked them to sit as witnesses. And Boaz said to the family redeemer, ‘You know Naomi, who came back from Moab. She is selling the land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. I thought I should speak to you about it so that you can redeem it if you wish. If you want the land, then buy it here in the presence of these witnesses. But if you don’t want it, let me know right away, because I am next in line to redeem it after you.’

The man replied, ‘All right, I’ll redeem it.’ Then Boaz told him, ‘Of course, your purchase of the land from Naomi also requires that you marry Ruth, the Moabite widow. That way she can have children who will carry on her husband’s name and keep the land in the family.’ ‘Then I can’t redeem it,’ the family redeemer replied, ‘because this might endanger my own estate. You redeem the land; I cannot do it.’ Now in those days it was the custom in Israel for anyone transferring a right of purchase to remove his sandal and hand it to the other party. This publicly validated the transaction. So the other family redeemer drew off his sandal as he said to Boaz, ‘You buy the land.’

Then Boaz said to the elders and to the crowd standing around, ‘You are witnesses that today I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion, and Mahlon. And with the land I have acquired Ruth, the Moabite widow of Mahlon, to be my wife. This way she can have a son to carry on the family name of her dead husband and to inherit the family property here in his hometown. You are all witnesses today.’ Then the elders and all the people standing in the gate replied, ‘We are witnesses! May the Lord make this woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, from whom all the nation of Israel descended! May you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. And may the Lord give you descendants by this young woman who will be like those of our ancestor Perez, the son of Tamar and Judah.’”

JUSTICE: DIVINELY RIGHTEOUS ACTION, WHETHER TAKEN BY HUMANITY OR GOD, THAT PROMOTES EQUALITY AMONG HUMANITY.

“He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” – Micah 6:8 (NKJV)

**4 LESSONS ON JUSTICE FROM THE STORY OF BOAZ
TO COOPERATE WITH GOD TO LIVE JUSTLY, I MUST...**

1) JOIN GOD IN HIS PLAN FOR JUSTICE BY _____ HIS _____.

“So Ruth went out to gather grain behind the harvesters. And as it happened, she found herself working in a field that belonged to Boaz, the relative of her father-in-law, Elimelech. While she was there, Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters. ‘The Lord be with you!’ he said. ‘The Lord bless you!’ the harvesters replied.” – Ruth 2:3-4 (NLT)

“For the Lord your God is the God of gods and Lord of lords. He is the great God, the mighty and awesome God, who shows no partiality and cannot be bribed. He ensures that orphans and widows receive justice. He shows love to the foreigners living among you and gives them food and clothing. So you, too, must show love to foreigners, for you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt.” – Deuteronomy 10:17-19 (NLT)

2) UNLOCK MY _____ TO THE _____ TAKING PLACE AROUND ME.

“Then Boaz asked his foreman, ‘Who is that young woman over there? Who does she belong to?’ And the foreman replied, ‘She is the young woman from Moab who came back with Naomi. She asked me this morning if she could gather grain behind the harvesters. She has been hard at work ever since, except for a few minutes’ rest in the shelter.’ – Ruth 2:5-7 (NLT)

Memory Verse: *“Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows.” – Isaiah 1:17 (NLT)*

3) SHAPE MY _____ BASED ON GOD’S _____ AND HIS _____.

“Then Boaz said to the elders and to the crowd standing around, ‘You are witnesses that today I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion, and Mahlon. And with the land I have acquired Ruth, the Moabite widow of Mahlon, to be my wife. This way she can have a son to carry on the family name of her dead husband and to inherit the family property here in his hometown. You are all witnesses today.’” – Ruth 4:9-10 (NLT)

*“He made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. He keeps every promise forever. He gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry. The Lord frees the prisoners.”
– Psalm 146:6-7 (NLT)*

4) TRUST _____, WHO PROVIDED _____ FOR ME.

(Jesus) “Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose.” – Matthew 5:17 (NLT)

“In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.”
– Ephesians 2:12-13 (NLT)

MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS TO:

- Memorize Isaiah 1:17.
- Ask God to soften my heart and open my eyes to the injustice around me.
- Commit to respond to injustice in a manner consistent with God’s Word.
- Trust Jesus for my ultimate justice by making Him my Savior and Lord for the first time today.

*Join us again next Sunday, July 24, as we conclude our *Character Builder* teaching series, looking at Jonathan and the trait of loyalty. Invite a friend to join you!

*Bible verses are from the New King James Versions (NKJV)
or the New Living Translation (NLT) unless otherwise noted.*

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