

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

SERIES: BROKEN DREAMS | WEEK 6 | 3.15.2020

Hey, so glad to have the opportunity to say hello to you today, to be able to meet with you, to be able to talk to you, to just be connected with you. And that's the whole deal here at Calvary, we just love to get together, we love to connect, and one of the things we love to do is connect around the Word of God.

So Lord God,

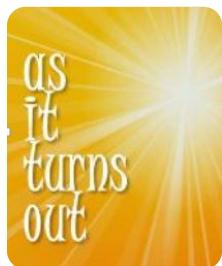
I just pray that You'll use what we're about ready to say, calm hearts, calm minds, encourage people. And wherever we're at right now, we're just aware right now that You're majorly at work. Thank you for the story in the book of Ruth. It's just a real people in a difficult time just like we find ourselves in today; that we can be a people that are encouraged by seeing how You are working even when it didn't look like it. So Lord, use these words and I pray that You'll encourage each one of us here today.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Everyone loves a great story. We are in the Old Testament of our Bible in the book of Ruth, an amazing story. A family living in Bethlehem moves to Moab—Naomi, Elimelech, and their two sons, Mahlon and Chilion—they go there to not die because there was a famine in their land. Oftentimes we run like crazy to try to stay away from death. I mean, it seems like this constant thing that weighs over all of us. And they go there to not die and guess what happens, they die. Well, at least the husband dies and the two boys die, and those two boys had gotten married while they were there. And so Naomi and the two girls, Orpah and Ruth are left behind.



The story went on and you'll have to read it yourself to catch up with it, but Naomi and Ruth come back to Bethlehem when the famine is over. And when they get there they're poor, and Ruth goes out into the field to begin to glean, that's how they took care of them in that time. And there was this moment, this as it so turns out moment, where she happens to be in the field of a guy by the name of Boaz. And as we first went into this you don't know why that matters, but her mother-in-law is all excited because this guy Boaz, even though he's a little bit older, probably about 40, never been married, and he is the kinsman-redeemer. And this concept of kinsman-redeemer is a key concept in the book.



A kinsman-redeemer is a person, they were a close relative, and they had the opportunity to redeem something that had been lost. So when they left they took and sold the land off that was their family land and heritage for years gone by and they headed off to Moab years before. Now she comes back she doesn't have a place to live, she doesn't have any food, she doesn't have any means of income, that's what the boys and the dad would have been responsible for, and here she is with Ruth. And so Ruth goes out gleaning and here is a guy by the name of Boaz that owns the field and it was, while it looked like it was a – *Oh, by the way, I ended up in Boaz's field*, it was way more than that. It was a God thing. And it says, "*as it turns out*,"¹ and there's just this reminder of God's involved in it.

So anyhow, here's what ends up happening. She goes and she begins gleaning on that field, she catches the eye of this guy by the name of Boaz, and Boaz just pours out his blessings on this girl. But seven weeks later it's about the end of harvest season and her mother-in-law, Naomi, says you know what, you

¹ **RUTH 2:3 (NIV):** So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek.

need to begin to let him know that you would like for him to be your redeemer, to be your kinsman-redeemer, to redeem that which was lost, and he's the guy that can do it. There's no one else out there to do it, so you need to go to him. And what we had last week in Chapter 3 was a marriage proposal and it was sort of backwards to what we're used to and a whole bunch of that was new to us culturally, and it was very fascinating to see how that happens. But at the end of the evening where she said *Boaz, be my kinsman-redeemer, redeem what's been lost here*—in other words, marry me, he says oh, you know what, actually there's a redeemer closer than me. It leads me to believe he had been thinking about this up front, and he goes, *I can't do that until I ask that other redeemer.*

And I don't know about you, but there's this feeling of *Oh, are you kidding me?* The story is going good, we have this marriage proposal, can't we just get married? Can't we just go? It's go time right now. And this guy wants to stop and he wants to say *Hey, you go home and let's have a conversation somewhere else at another time. I've got to go work with someone beforehand; there's another person, a closer redeemer.* And that's where we find ourselves in the story this morning.

Here's what's interesting. Chapter 3 it's all up against a black background; the lights in the room are dark because they're there in the barn, it's after midnight and it's dark. And Chapter 4 it's gonna go all

out in the light. You know, he says to her at the end of the night there and in the barn, you know, *Listen, I want you to slip out of here. I don't want you to be seen, people will get the wrong idea what went on in here.* Nothing wrong went on in there, but in the darkness things are hidden. He goes, *Here's what the deal is, I'm gonna take this and I'm gonna take it into the light.*



RUTH AND BOAZ
ON THE THRESHING FLOOR

I'm just gonna encourage us; everything in our world, if we keep it in the light and we put it in the light, great things happen. When we hide it in the dark, bad things happen. So take that stuff that is in the dark that you are hiding, that no one can see right now, the stuff that you realize if someone saw it it'd be problematic, and get it out into the light. Because in the light, light purifies. In the light you can see where you're going. In the light everything is exposed. And so I

want to read to the story, Ruth Chapter 4, verses 1 through 13, just amazing story and then we'll just talk about it for a minute.

¹ Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there.

— so the gate is this entry level of an ancient city, it is also where business took place. It normally was an archway, probably a covering. The city leaders, the bigwigs of the town, would sit there and if you wanted to get something done, you went to the gate. He goes to that gate and it says:

And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by.

— um, is that similar to the previous "and it just so happened" she ends up in the field of Boaz? Is it just so happens that the redeemer shows up? Or is it one of those things that Boaz knew he'd be coming by, maybe everyone really passed by that. He calls him over and says:

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 now these are the bigwigs, again, they're all sitting down, they're all going to be part of this conversation —

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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.

— remember, being a redeemer he could redeem land, so he could buy that land back for Naomi; or he could redeem people, he could buy a person maybe that sold themselves into slavery to pay the bills, he could buy them back. He would pay the price that was due to whoever they had sold it off to in that time. So he says Naomi is wanting to sell the land so we're there, so then he said this in verse 4:

⁴ So I thought I would tell you of it and say, ‘Buy it in the presence of those sitting here

— these are the people that can sign the documents, stamp it with their approval, whatever all that was in that time, this is a legitimate legal transaction going on in the right place —

and in the presence of the elders of my people.’ If you will redeem it,

— if you'll be the redeemer and 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.”

— I don't know if you've just captured what that said. This other guy, the redeemer, the closer redeemer, which the Bible never gives a name to by the way, says, *I've got it, of course.* This guy wants to add this land to his portfolio. This is a no-brainer. *Yes, I have this opportunity. I'll do that. I'll buy that land. I've always liked that piece of property. I'm on it.* And again, we all step back and go, "Uhh." Twist and turn in the story, it's an awesome story, the Bible's just telling you the facts about what's really going on at that time. Verse 5:

⁵ Then Boaz said,

— um, oh, by the way —

“The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite,

— Wh-wh-what? What? Yeah, you get her with this deal, too, she's —

the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance.”

— so then the redeemer said, *N-n-n-no, I can't! I can't redeem it —*

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.”

— and we say awesome! He just blew off this deal because all of a sudden Boaz said yeah, you get Ruth with it. And this guy goes, I can't mess up my own inheritances. I have kids and that means we're gonna divide this thing up and everything changes. No, I don't want that land if I can't have that for myself. I don't want what comes with it. That was the small print. I didn't even read the contract. For crying out loud, why not? And so Boaz makes it clear to him. He says, No, you take it. It's all yours. Verse 7:

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.

— RUTH 4:1-7 (ESV)

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I thought about wearing sandals today, it's still, even though it's nice this week, a little chilly for that. And so, anyhow, you pop off that sandal and you hand it to the other and that is the way you signed, sealed, and delivered it by giving your sandal in that time. So now all of a sudden this thing is official. Verse 9:

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.”

— so here are, we're going to redeem what was lost, we're going to redeem what is dead, and we are going to redeem it back to life again —

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 had come before them —

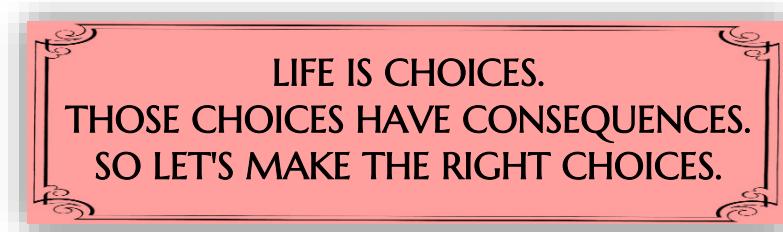
who together built up the house of Israel. May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem, ¹² and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring that the Lord will give you by this young woman.”

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son.

— RUTH 4:8-13 (ESV)

It's his! He can now go marry Ruth. The transaction's been made, the sandals have been exchanged, the work's been done. There was something inside of us that early on in this conversation said, "Can we just skip over that?" There's something in our own world that just says, "I know this is right. I know this is supposed to be. God told me. I heard a word from the Lord. I've been praying about it. I know it's supposed to be." And sometimes we try to shortcut things.

This man Boaz is a man who is a man of character and here's what I understand about character. When we are people of character, we do what we say and we do it right. And what I find is life is a series of choices, and sometimes in the midst of those choices it's very easy to shortcut the right choice because we just want to get to the conclusion. So life is choices, those choices have consequences, so let's make



the right choices. And he knew that if he didn't deal with this other situation, that would always be hanging out there for him. There's a lot of things going on in our lives because we didn't deal with it then we're dealing with it now. Whether that's parenting or whether it's our own marriage, there's people

listening to what we're saying here right now that would say, "Oh, I wish I would have asked this question when we were dating." "I wish I wouldn't have been in such a rush to give a ring." "I wish I would have listened to my parents." "I wish I would have taken a moment and gotten that counseling." "I wish I would have taken a moment and chased down the right paperwork. I got everything backwards." I mean, there are some here who are saying, "I wish I would have said, *Hey, we're going to get married before we go to bed together. We're going to do the right things right. We're going to make right choices because those choices have consequences, and those consequences are lasting.*"

This man, being a man of character, made the right choices. And here's what I love about him, he doesn't let any grass grow under his feet. And that's why at the end of Chapter 3, Naomi said to Ruth this guy's going to take care of business, he's going to take care of it fast because she knew he was a man of character.



4 THINGS MEN MUST DO

- 1. Accept responsibility.**
- 2. Reject passivity.**
- 3. Lead courageously.**
- 4. Invest eternally.**

I love one of the men's ministries that has done a study here at the church. Again, guys, I just love when you're jumping in and you're learning and growing because so many of us miss key building blocks and to learn some of these things are key and we need to be teaching them to our boys, and so the more we're learning it that we're able to teach it to our boys. But one of our men's ministries says there's four things that men must do and I have them written on one of my notes. Many of the guys in here that are listening to this have this memorized and they rattle it off. I don't have it memorized but four things men must do: They need to accept responsibility. They need to reject passivity. They need to lead courageously. And they need to invest eternally. You teach those four things to your boys and I'm just telling you, great things are gonna come.

But us men, we have this tendency to be passive. You see that back in the garden when Eve's taking the fruit, you see Adam stepping back and going, *Oh, wow, I don't know, do I say anything?* and just sort of lets it pass by. And so then leading courageously, and that's what this man Boaz does. He knows there's ramifications. That guy when he said, "Yeah, I'll take the land." There had to be a lump in Boaz's throat, like, *I knew I shouldn't have come here. I knew I shouldn't have jumped into this moment.* But he jumps into that moment cause he's a man of character, he knows what to do, he knows how to do what is right, and he leads courageously. And it turns out, you talk about investing eternally, because he does the right things right this is gonna have long-term implications. Who Ruth is in the line of Jesus is huge, and it doesn't happen if this man doesn't do the right things at this part.

And so I would just say to each one of us when we have a decision to make, when we have to take care of business, we need to take action immediately. If it's worth doing, it's worth doing right now. We need to make decisions quickly—Yes. No. Pray about them—but make a decision. So many of us are just locked up and we're so scared. What if this is wrong? What if this is wrong? And he had to be asking that question when the guy's like, "Yeah I'll take the land." But know that God's plan will not be held back and we need to step forward. And when God's blessing, just keep on living in that blessing and going down that path.

I would just encourage you right now. Maybe you're single, you're not married, another birthday just passed and you're going, "I want children and I want to be married, I want to have that relationship." And you're just sort of in this panic mode. Don't get in that panic mode. Trust that God's got this. That

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God's got this in time. You're dating someone but you see a question mark that you're concerned about. You see some things that go against what you're looking for in a man of God or a woman of character, and you say, "Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! I'm going to back off." And someone says to you, "Uh, you know, I don't know when the next guy's gonna come along. No one's asked out me out for a long time, then he asked me out. And he's a really great guy, he comes from a great family, *but* he's not a follower of Jesus, *but* he's not willing to lead my family." And we step back and we say wait a minute, there's some things I need to do first.

You're in a business situation and you know, you know what you need to do, it's time to do those things. You're in a marriage, well, you know, I'll jump on this next year. And you know, maybe next year I'll go to that a marital conference. Or next year we'll read this book together. Or you know, maybe next month we'll start reading the Bible together. Maybe we'll start praying that at another time. Time is now. And Boaz is showing, hey, this is how I'm gonna live my life, I take care of business now. And I think that many of us are very much a professional group of people. We go into our professional lives just checking off that list, but when it comes to our personal lives oftentimes we blow it off and we miss it. And what we learn through Boaz here is let's roll, it's time.

I love Proverbs 24:27:

*27 Prepare your work outside;
get everything ready for yourself in the field,
and after that build your house.*

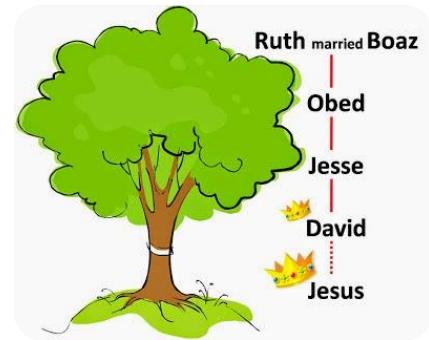
– PROVERBS 24:27 (ESV)

Here's the picture: Solomon is teaching his son, guys, that's what we gotta do, we've been talking these things through to our boys, we need to tell our sons – listen, son, get your act together, do your preparation, that's why I want you studying your math right now. That's why I want you practicing your instrument. That's why I want you practicing your sport. Get these things done. And listen, if you're blessed with a dad and your dad's pushing that stuff, listen to him, follow him, do what he's asking. Solomon's telling you, his son, there's things that you need to work at and do before you can ever put your family together.

And Boaz realizes that there's some things I need to do before I can ever even think of marriage. Before – I have this feeling he really likes Ruth, he wants to marry her, but he knows there's some things he needs to do first. Yes, I have emotions. Yes, I have feelings. But I also know that I need to lay the foundation. When I lay that foundation right, there won't be all sorts of technicalities and problems coming in later on. Oh yeah, there will always be problems, but we'll be taking care of everything we know of right up front.

So here's the cool thing and this is how the story circles back around, they have a baby. They get married, they have a baby [Obed], and you gotta jump back in next week with me. There are some huge implications of the baby that they have, that God would use this lady by the name of Ruth from Moab, you would never see her showing up in the picture and yet she becomes a major part of the story falling into the line of Jesus.

So let me just talk to you for a moment and I've told you that this is a story about real people in real time and God just taking the camera



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and zeroing it in on them and then you hear that Ruth ends up in the line of Christ and you go, "I get this is a normal story about a given group of people but, yeah, this family is a little bit different than that." Obviously, they end up in the line of Jesus Christ. "My life right now is boring, mundane, or it's hurting, or it's struggling, or I'm trying to figure out a bunch of stuff, and yeah, I get it that God was working in their life, in their family, I'm not sure if I'm seeing that here today. I wish, I wish I could be like Ruth and just know that God's putting this thing together and *it just so happened* that I was in that field, *it just so happened* that the guy I'm dating runs into this guy and everything works out. But, yeah, none of that just so happening is happening in my world." And here's what I just want to throw out to you: What if, what if you are a person that's willing to say, "God, I'll trust You." Remember, we started all the way back at this girl's salvation, back there on the road when she says your God will be my God, your people will be my people, where you go I'll go, I'm in. I'm all-in, count me in. God, I don't know You. I don't know much about You, but here I am, I'm ready to follow You. And what if that God says, "Come on, let's go"?

Now what I want to see in this passage and what excites me in this time where there's so much uncertainty in our world is that I don't think all is lost. There was a family that heads off to save themselves from death and it doesn't go well. They come back to a place that has been through years of famine, things had to be difficult there, and yet some amazing things happen. What if we would be a people that would say: "God, God, I'm not discouraged. I'm not going to be down. I am NOT going to lose faith. I'm watching, I'm watching, God, what are You doing? I'm excited about that." I beg you to believe and know I am convinced that God is really, really, really active in your life right now. Don't miss it.

Have you ever looked back into one of those times in your life going, "Oh, I wish I would have just stepped back and enjoyed that moment"? That time at the pool last summer when we were all running around just laughing and giggling and I was just so fixated on the texts that were coming through from someone else somewhere else that I sort of missed that day. I think that's the day we're in right now. Everyone's telling you, "It's dark." "It's bad!" "It's worse!" "It's getting worse!" and yet God's doing something amazing around you. You've been wishing that you could be together as a family for a while, now everyone's home because they can't go anywhere. You're home, you're together as a family, you get to be together—maximize this moment, redeem that which was lost, and realize that God has brought you back together today.



I want to end with one more thing. Boaz obligated himself at this moment. I understand marriage and emotions are awesome, but he recognized before he made that decision that he was obligating himself. He had to purchase a large purchase of land that he had to make. He had a relationship that now would require a lot of effort and time and care and understanding, and in the coolest of ways he says count me in and he recognizes that obligation. I think so many times when it comes to love or comes to even spending money it's just like we lose our mind and we forget that obligation that we're making. He took the time to understand what it is, to understand the gravity of that, and to jump into it.

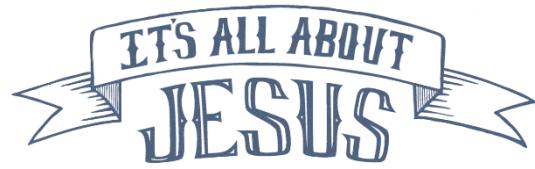
From everything we know about this passage, this is following 10 maybe even 15 years of famine, we may only be a year outside of that famine because you'll remember Naomi when she was in Moab hears that the famine has ended and heads back, it may not have been long since the famine had ended. This

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guy's still playing catch-up. It would've been very easy to say now's not a good time, but he obligates himself and says, "I want to redeem that which was lost." And he does it at a very high cost to himself.

And I want to just say this to us: Everything in this Book points towards Jesus. It's an awesome story and it would be easy to just enjoy it as just a little love story, but everything about this is pointing our attention towards Jesus. When you read your Bible ask yourself: How is this pointing towards Jesus? And what we will learn is that Boaz is a picture of Jesus. And Jesus, the Scriptures will tell us, is our kinsman-redeemer. He is our Redeemer. He's the one who came into this world and at great cost sacrificed Himself so that He could redeem that which was lost.

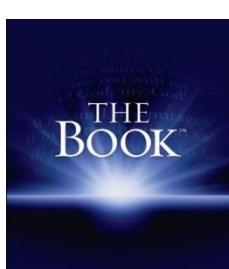


So this picture, this story of a guy by the name of Boaz, is made to help us see a bigger picture—that we were beggars at the feet of Jesus, helpless at the feet of Jesus, and by His own choice He redeems that which is lost in our lives. And you and I know how much is lost, how much is messed up, how much was destroyed. The Bible says that everything was lost. That because of our sin nature, one sin alone was enough to separate us from God and that's why we're just constantly striving somehow. And that's why so many people try through works and, "Can I be good enough?" and, "If I'm just a little bit better, God will be okay." And that's why eventually you'll meet a lot of people who figure that they know what those steps are, and even systems that call out those steps, finally get to what they *think* is the top layer of that step—and you see it in these cults oftentimes—and when they get to that top layer of that step and they find out that they're still not touching God and not reaching God, they become desperate and discouraged.

And some of us, as we're watching this we go, "I'm that discouraged one. I'm that desperate one. Things just aren't right. I've prayed, I've asked God, I've cried out, and I still am separated from Him and everyone else, and everything else, and there's so much loss I don't even know where to begin. I don't know what to pick up first." And that's where Jesus comes in and we come to His feet and we say, "Would You redeem me? I believe that You are my Redeemer. You are the only one who can redeem me, and at great cost." You know how big a cost it was, He hung and died on a cross and He had to be able to do it. God's requirement of that cost was a perfect sacrifice, one who had never sinned. We can't say that about anyone else. At that great cost He paid the price and He obligated Himself to us. And now He offers for us to come to Him and it's up to us to respond to that and say yes to Him.

And so I know I say this constantly, but it's the heart of the passage and it's where it's going again next week: Will you ask Him to redeem you? That's what He wants. He's been longing for you to come to Him. Have you been nervous about it? Uncomfortable about it? Are you worried what other people would think about it? You've thought about it in your own mind and it seems a little odd to you that a

perfect sacrifice of Jesus 2,000 years ago would be enough. You've got all those—that's static going through your head and yet you recognize nothing else worked. And this Book continues to be true and I keep on hearing it, and now it makes sense to me. And I'll tell you why it's making sense to you, because God's Spirit is moving in your heart and your life and He's telling you this is right.



I love that verse in Romans² that says, "*For the wages of sin is death,*" no one's talking about that right now. Everyone's arguing what could kill you right now and

² ROMANS 3:23 (ESV): *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

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who gets killed and how many people get killed and, I mean, it's just – it's all about death. Here's what the Bible says: The price of sin is death. That's why there's so many deaths. And it says, "*but the free gift of God is eternal life*" – eternal life through Jesus Christ my Lord, grab onto that life and put your trust in Jesus right now. Let me pray for you.

Jesus,

We love you. I pray for each person that's discouraged right now, scared, uncomfortable. I pray that they would find perfect love because your Scripture says that perfect love casts out fear. So I pray that you grab onto Jesus right now. And Lord Jesus, I pray that the peace that passes all understanding would just come upon each person into the sound of my voice right now, and that they would just call to you and say, "Jesus, come into my life. I want You to be my Redeemer. Take away that which is lost. I want You. I want the life that only You can bring."

It's in Your Name we pray. Amen.

Listen, we love you and I just thank you for taking the time to be a part of this message today. Have a wonderful week. Focus in on what God is doing; don't listen to the stuff that's telling you what's going wrong, there will always be someone telling you that. Focus in on Jesus – game changer. Love ya, have a wonderful week.

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Keywords: kinsman-redeemer, Redeemer, redeem, Jesus, character



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