

Grandpa Devotional #10

Celebration

Read Ruth 4:7-12

7 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.

8 So the other family redeemer drew off his sandal as he said to Boaz, "You buy the land."

9 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.

10 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."

11 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.

12 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."

What was the custom in Israel in that day (v. 7)? If you were going to agree to let another person buy something you both wanted, you would remove your sandal and give it to that other person.

What did that do? It gave the other person permission to buy whatever was in question. This would be like giving the other person your personal stamp of approval in front of many witnesses who were watching.

What did the other redeemer do and say (v. 8)? He took off his sandal and told Boaz that he could buy the land.

What did Boaz do next (vv. 9-10)? (Read vv. 9-10) He told all the witnesses that he was going to buy the family land of Naomi and was going to marry Ruth so she could have a son to carry on the family name.

What did the elders and the people watching say (vv. 11-12)? (Read vv. 11-12) They were celebrating! They were wishing Ruth and Boaz good fortune in their marriage including many children -- like many of their famous Jewish ancestors. The people loved Ruth and Boaz because their lives were lived honorably, consistently and without hypocrisy. They didn't choose the easy path; they were concerned about choosing the right path. The townspeople were their cheerleaders.