

## **Boaz Marries Ruth**

Ruth 4

by Don Falkos

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Boaz went to the town gate and waited. When the 'closer relative' he had mentioned to Ruth came by, he called out, "Come, sit with me. I want to talk with you." Then Boaz called over ten important men of Bethlehem to serve as witnesses to the business he was about to conduct.

Boaz said to his relative, "Naomi wishes to sell her husband's land. As her closest relative you have the right to buy it before anyone else. If you want it, buy it now in front of these witnesses. If not, say so, because I'm next in line."

The man replied, "I'll buy the land."

Then Boaz said, "Of course, when you buy the land you must also take Ruth, the Moabite woman, as your wife. And then, by law, you must produce an heir for her dead husband so that the land remains in their family."

The man said, "Oh, I can't do that. I would be endangering my own family's inheritance. I relinquish my rights to the land. You may buy it, if you wish."

With all the people there as witnesses, Boaz said, "Today I have bought from Naomi all the property that belonged to her husband. And I accept Ruth, the Moabite woman, as my wife."

Boaz married Ruth. They had a son named Obed. Naomi was overjoyed. She took the boy in her arms and cared for him as if he were her own son. The neighbor women referred to Obed as 'Naomi's boy.'

Obed became the father of Jesse, who was the father of David, the great king of Israel.