

Jesus : The Kinsman-Redeemer

3rd Sunday in Advent: December 12, 2010

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What we are doing is taking a good look at Jesus. How he is intricately tied to the Old Testament really from the beginning and how the Old Testament paints an incredible picture for us of separation we have from God, but God's relentless pursuit of us, in the form of his Son. From giving us pictures of coverings that cover our sin and shame, scapegoats that carry away the burden of sin. I thought Bonita did a great job last week of laying that out for us, and Spencer captured that in this painting (Painting from last week)

The picture this week is just as vivid as God just kept pouring on the images to the people of what the plan would be. The image this week from the Old Testament is that of the 'Kinsman-Redeemer'. If you are not sure what that is then you have missed one of the great images in all of scripture, as God uses this image to introduce that the real redeemer was not going to be an inanimate object like a clothe or a carved image of a Cherubim, or the tar that is brushed on the side of the ark. The redeemer was not even going to be an animal like a goat, but the redeemer was going to be a person, a real living person, an not only a person, but this person was going to be a family member.

What was happening was that God was revealing the plan slowly but surely. As I was thinking about it. It was much like the movie, *The Sting* back in 1973, starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford, where they played 2 con-artists trying to make a big score against a gangster. The plan had to include *The Set-up* to set the whole play in motion, then the Hook, that drew the gangster in and finally the Sting, that finished the plan and the gangster didn't even know he had been played.

Here is how God did it:

Many of us are familiar with the fact that in the Old Testament it is filled with laws. The most famous of those are the 10 commandments, but there are 100's of other laws. One of those laws is in regard to Redemption, or being redeemed. Redeem means to be 'Bought back' and through this law God set-up how it would all play out.

The Laws of Redemption aka: *The Set-up*

Here's how it reads:

"Suppose a foreigner or temporary resident becomes rich while living among you. If any of your fellow Israelites fall into poverty and are forced to sell themselves to such a foreigner or to a member of his family, they still retain the right to be bought back, even after they have been purchased. They may be bought back by a brother, an uncle, or a cousin. In fact, anyone from the extended family may buy them back. They may also redeem themselves if they have prospered. Leviticus 25:47-49

So through this law, God established with the people of Israel, that if anyone became destitute, (which was a picture of spiritual separation from God), they could be bought back by the closest next of Kin. This person would be called the Kinsman-Redeemer. One of the responsibilities of a Kinsman- Redeemer was that he would marry the widow of his deceased relative in order to carry on the family line.

This law was established during the time of Moses, which was about 1500 years before Christ.

Now here is why I call this next section the Hook, which is:

Actual Jewish Life aka: *The Hook*

For the next 1500 years, actual Jewish life was lived out under this law, constantly showing the Jewish people how God would buy them back. What we have in the book of Ruth is one such picture of how this worked in everyday life:

A little back story:

- Naomi & Elimelech were married and had 2 sons
- The 2 sons marry two women who are Moabite women
- Elimelech and the 2 sons die, leaving the 3 women destitute
- The one daughter-in-law leaves and goes back to her tribe, Ruth, however, loves Naomi and vows to stay with her.
- Boaz is a kinsman – Redeemer to Ruth, but he is not the closest of kin, so if this closest of kin wants to pay the debt and marry Ruth than he can, but Ruth approaches Boaz. Watch how everyday Jewish life happens:

“After Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he lay down at the far end of the pile of grain and went to sleep. Then Ruth came quietly, uncovered his feet, and lay down. Around midnight Boaz suddenly woke up and turned over. He was surprised to find a woman lying at his feet! “Who are you?” he asked. “I am your servant Ruth,” she replied. “Spread the corner of your covering over me, for you are my family redeemer.” “The LORD bless you, my daughter!” Boaz exclaimed. “You are showing even more family loyalty now than you did before, for you have not gone after a younger man, whether rich or poor. Now don’t worry about a thing, my daughter. I will do what is necessary, for everyone in town knows you are a virtuous woman. But while it’s true that I am one of your family redeemers, there is another man who is more closely related to you than I am. Stay here tonight, and in the morning I will talk to him. If he is willing to redeem you, very well. Let him marry you. But if he is not willing, then as surely as the LORD lives, I will redeem you myself! Now lie down here until morning.” Ruth 3:7-13

(Explain the

- **removal of the blanket from the feet, then**
- **the request to spread the blanket over her)**

The Requirements of a Kinsman-Redeemer

1. They must be willing – they must desire to be the redeemer, they could not be forced, it is their choice
2. They had to be next of Kin – they must be a relative and the firstborn son always had first right
3. They had to be able – they had to have the means to pay
4. They had to take on the debt – then finally whatever the price that was owed, for the person or the land or both, they had to physically take on the debt that was owed. It would become their debt to pay

For 1500 years normal Jewish life existed like that. Practiced over and over in various settings.

In the final scene of the movie *The Sting*, Paul Newman and Robert Redford have to pull off the big play, in order to beat the Mob boss. To do that Robert Redford has to take a bullet, as he lays dead on the floor, it looks like all is lost, moments go by, the Mob boss is ushered out of the room so that he doesn't get implicated in the murder. Finally, when it looks like everything is over Redford comes back to life. The sting is accomplished.

1500 years earlier the set-up had been made, in the giving of the law of redemption, from that time on normal Jewish life had set the hook, that this was the way redemption would take place, however, they kept waiting for a King to redeem Israel.

The sting was that God would send his firstborn,

Jesus Christ aka: *The Sting*

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. Colossians 1:15

God would send his only begotten, and he took the bullet for us, for 3 days we all waited, in the end he arose, death could not hold him, He is our Kinsman- Redeemer,

...but just like Ruth, the redeemer has done everything required to redeem (buy you back) but unless you request for the blanket to be spread over you, then no redemption will take place and you will be left to pay the penalty of your own sin.

Jesus is our Kinsman-Redeemer