

“Behold, the Redeemer”

Sermon Notes

- **At the end of the day, biblical Christianity isn’t about getting religion, it’s about experiencing redemption**

**If you are a Christian, then just like Naomi you know that...*

1. We cannot redeem ourselves, but there *is* a Redeemer (vv.1-12; Psalm 103:4; Isaiah 43:1; 1 Corinthians 1:30)

2. We cannot begin to number the blessings of our redemption (vv.13-17; Gal. 3:13; 4:5; Rom. 3:24; 8:23; Col. 1:14; Titus 2:14)

3. We, too, find our names written into redemptive history (vv.18-22; Isaiah 43:1; Matthew 1:3-6, 16; 1 Timothy 1:15-16)

MEFC Community Group Study Guide

For the Week of October 23rd - 29th

Getting Started

1. Redeem...redeemer...redemptive...redemption...if there ever were a series of stained-glass words, tightly tethered in the modern mind to religion, these would certainly have to qualify. Ironically enough, this is an ancient word group that has its origins in the home, on the farm, as well as in the marketplace¹. What comes to mind for you when you reflect on these words? Can you define them? How would you explain what they mean to a person on your 'List of 5' with very little familiarity with the Bible?

Digging Deeper

2. The word "redeem" shows up no less than 20 times across four short chapters in the book of Ruth. Given the brevity of this little book, redemption is not merely *a* theme but *the* theme of Ruth. Scan through the various appearances of this word in the book: 2:20; 3:9, 12 (2x); 13 (3x); 4:1, 3, 4 (4x); 4:6 (4x), 7; 4:8, 14. Over the course of our preaching series, we've been revisiting the truth that **even in the midst of the darkest days of a nation, God is with his people sovereignly working redemption**. How is this true in the book of Ruth? How is this true in our lives as a church?

Open Your Bible to Exodus 6:6...

3. Though the word and basic concept is present even earlier on in the biblical storyline, the first great act of redemption is found in the book of Exodus. Read, for example, Exodus 6:6; 15:13; Deuteronomy 9:26; and 15:15. What redemptive act takes place here? Who is the redeemer? Who are the redeemed? What is the significance of this ancient act of redemption for us in the church today?
4. Another fascinating recurrence of the word "redeem" is found in the book of Job. Take a look at Job 5:20; 6:23; 19:25; and 33:28. How many different people in this book use this language? What sort of hope do they express? (*Hint*: Each occurrence of this word in the book of Job is found in the midst of a much larger passage. Make sure you take the time to explore the surrounding verses in order to establish the proper context)
5. The Psalms also contain a rich reservoir of "redemption" language. Consider some of the more well-known places where we see it used: Psalm 19:14; 31:5; 34:22; 103:4; 107:2. What do these texts add to the composite portrait of redemption painted in the Bible? Are any of these passages particularly precious to you? If so, which one(s)? Why?

¹ "[Redeem] goes back to...[a] verb which basically means 'to loose, loosen', and was used of processes such as unbinding clothes, armour, etc. By a natural extension of use the verb was applied to living beings, as in the unyoking of horses, and then with regard to men, when it signified the loosing of the bonds of the prisoner so that he became free. Quite often it was used in contexts where a ransom was supplied as the condition of release, and in this way came to signify 'to release on receipt of a ransom'." - Leon Morris, *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company: Grand Rapids, MI. 1955. p.9.

6. More than any other book of the Bible, the prophet Isaiah speaks of redemption for Israel some 27 times. 1:27; 29:22; 35:9; 41:14; 43:1, 14; 44:6, 21, 23-24; 47:4; 48:17, 20; 49:7, 26; 50:2; 51:10; 52:3, 9; 54:5; 59:20; 60:16; 62:12; 63:4, 9, 16. Isaiah's prophecy dates to some 700 years after the redemption of the Jews from their bondage in Egypt. From what or whom does Israel seek redemption in these passages? Though the prophecy is in the past, can the same be said for their redemption? Is Isaiah in any sense predicting a yet future redemption for Israel (future even from our perspective)? If yes, explain. If not, explain.

7. One of the key points in this past Sunday's sermon was that *we cannot begin to number the blessings of our redemption*. Is this true in your life? Consider the following half-dozen New Testament texts. Jesus, our Redeemer, has secured for us all of this and more. What practical impact do the following truths about redemption have for you? How do they speak to your present battle with indwelling sin or with any sort of adversity, suffering, etc that you're currently facing?
 - Galatians 3:13
 - Galatians 4:5
 - Romans 3:24
 - Romans 8:23
 - Colossians 1:14
 - Titus 2:14