



The Story of Ruth

Ruth 1-4

Kingdom Crusader glanced at her watch, then gazed around Scripture Guy's secret lab. A yellow light flashed near the huge monitor screen on the wall across from her chair. "Scripture Guy could use better furniture," she thought as she fidgeted to get comfortable.

"Hear ye, hear ye! I call to order this first official meeting of the King City Justice League," Scripture Guy announced as he entered.

Kingdom Crusader looked up just as Scripture Guy raised the gavel, pounding it against a metal table. She winced and covered her ears at the racket. "I think the name 'Justice League' is taken."

Scripture Guy shrugged. "It's a working title. Have you got a better name?"

"How about 'The Really Good Guys With Secret Identities'?" she suggested.

Scripture Guy frowned. "You're not very good at this, are you? Okay, we'll pick our name later. Let's just take roll call."

Kingdom Crusader looked confused. "Why do we need to take roll call? There are only two of us? I'm here and you're here."

Scripture guy grinned sheepishly. "Oh, yeah. Well, never mind! Let's just get on with the business at hand. The Philistine escaped, but we stopped him before he was able to steal all of King City's power."

"Yeah, we used teamwork!" Kingdom Crusader cheered.

"Teamwork is the key to how we will watch over King City!" agreed Scripture Guy. "We will take turns monitoring the view screen, observing the sky for signal beacons, and listening for cries of help. We shall be King City's redeemers!"

"Huh? What's a redeemer?" Kingdom Crusader questioned.

"It's a person who pays the price to save someone from something bad," Scripture Guy explained. "You know, like us, and like Boaz did for Ruth."

"Who?" Kingdom Crusader asked.

"Ruth. You know, Ruth. She was the lady from Moab who left her own people and her homeland to go with Naomi and become one of God's people. There's a whole book in the Bible named after her," Scripture Guy replied.

Kingdom Crusader tapped her fingers on the table. "Really? What's it called?"

"The book of Ruth! Go get the Good News and I'll show you." Scripture Guy motioned to the newspaper box near the door.

Kingdom Crusader walked to the box, picked up the Bible, and brought it to Scripture Guy. He flipped it open to the book of Ruth. "Right, here we are," he announced when he found the story he was looking for. "Ruth was married to Naomi's son, but when he died Ruth followed Naomi all the way back to Israel. She loved her and wanted to continue to be part of her family."

"I bet they made a great team," Kingdom Crusader commented.

"They did," he agreed. "but they were two poor widows who were all alone with no one to care for them."

"If we were there, we could have watched over them," Kingdom Crusader noted.

"Don't worry! God sent someone to watch over them," Scripture Guy said. "Every day Ruth would go to the wheat fields belonging to a rich man named Boaz. There she gathered leftover grain so she and Naomi could eat."

"Did Boaz watch over her?" Kingdom Crusader asked.

Scripture Guy nodded. "He did. Boaz had heard how kind Ruth was to Naomi and he told his workers to leave some extra wheat for her. Naomi told Ruth the news that Boaz was a close relative. That meant Boaz had the power to redeem them."

Kingdom Crusader slapped the table, "There's that word again: redeemer! Did God send Boaz to save Ruth and Naomi?"

"You could say that," Scripture Guy answered. "Boaz was their kinsman-redeemer. According to Jewish law, Boaz had the right to buy Naomi's land and marry Ruth."

Kingdom Crusader smiled. "Oh, so Boaz paid the price for the land to save both Ruth and Naomi from such a hard life. What a great plan God had! So, did Ruth marry him?"

"She sure did and they had a baby. Naomi's friends praised the Lord." Scripture Guy looked down at the Bible and read, "The women said to Naomi: 'Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel!'"

"She had a baby, hooray!" Kingdom Crusader cheered.

"Not just any baby!" Scripture Guy exclaimed. "His name was Obed and he had a son named Jesse and, who was Jesse's son?"

Kingdom Crusader thought for a moment. Then her face lit up with understanding and a huge smile. "King David! God saved Ruth and Naomi and they became such an important part of His family!"

"That's how it is when your part of God's redeem team!" Scripture Guy exclaimed.

Kingdom Crusader turned to Scripture Guy; her eyes wide with excitement. "That's it! That's should be our name, 'The Redeem Team!'"

"I like it!" he exclaimed. "The Redeem Team, saving and protecting those we love!"

"That's just what Jesus did!" Kingdom Crusader recalled.

"Jesus was the true Redeemer," Scripture Guy exclaimed. "A close relative who paid the price with His life to save all who would believe in Him. I pray we can be more like Him!"

Just then the phone rang. Kingdom Crusader answered. "Redeem Team. Hello? What? Where? We're on the way!" She raced to the door. "There's an electric power line blocking traffic downtown."

Scripture Guy jumped up and ran after her. "This must be the work of the Philistine! The city needs us." He stopped and looked at Kingdom Crusader. "Are you thinking what I'm thinking?"

Together, they flew into the air and shouted, "Redeem Team to the rescue! We give everything to honor our King!"