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Ruth 路得記 4

By Matthew Kitchener

I was going through a very long security line for a flight a few years ago.

幾年前，我曾在飛機場的安檢排了一次了很長的隊。

I came to the part where you remove all your electronics and put them in a bin.

我排到了需要把電子設備放進籃子裡檢查的環節。

At that time I had an iPhone that had fallen out of my jacket while I was jogging and had a cracked face.

當時，我的手機屏幕在我跑步鍛鍊的時候摔裂了。

I also had a laptop with a broken screen. A box had landed on it.

我的平板電腦的屏幕也被一個箱子砸裂了。

As the screener at the airport looked at the 2 broken screens he commented, “You’re just a mess aren’t you?”

正如機場的工作人員看著拿兩個碎裂的屏幕發出的感嘆：“你可真是一團糟啊！”一樣，

That could be said about the family situation for Naomi at the beginning of this book.

拿娥米的家庭狀況在路得記的開頭也是如此。

Her story looks like a broken mess.

她的故事也是一團糟。

A Messy Story-“Naomi’s tragedy”

一個亂糟糟的故事 — 「拿娥米的悲劇」

Famine led to her family fleeing to Moab.

飢荒迫使她的家庭逃亡到了摩押。

She suffered 3 deaths and no children.

她經歷了三個親人的死亡，膝下沒有孩子。

She returned home to abject poverty.

她的家裡一貧如洗。

So much brokenness!

真是破碎啊！

This mattered not only to Naomi’s family line, but to her community.

這不僅影響到了拿娥米的家族，也影響到了拿娥米的社區。

Land was given by God to extended families and was to stay in the family.

土地是由神賜給親族來保留的。

So Elimelech’s and his sons’ deaths left a gap for the community.

所以__和他的兒子們的死在那個社區中留下了一個空缺。

One question of this story is “Can broken things be repaired and messes redeemed?”

這個故事所提出的一大問題就是：「破碎毀壞了的事物還能被修復、贖回嗎？」

A Messy Story-“Ruth’s history”

一個亂糟糟的故事 — 「路得的歷史」

Ruth, who comes with Naomi, also has a history rooted in brokenness.

與拿娥米一同來的路得也有著一個紮根於破碎的歷史。

Her tribe, Moab, comes from Abraham’s nephew Lot, who claimed the best of Abraham’s land and then fell in with the violent and evil Sodom.

她的族群摩押人可追溯到亞伯拉罕的侄子羅得，也就是得到了亞伯拉罕最好的土地而後與暴力邪惡的索多瑪一同墮落的人。

After Sodom was destroyed, he fathered two sons with his own daughters. Moab was a child from this incest.

索多瑪被毀滅後，他和自己的女兒們生了兩個兒子，摩押就是這近親關係中所誕生的兒子之一。

Moab was an enemy to Abraham’s line, Israel, at different points in history: they sought to curse Israel, refused them hospitality, then subjected them to slavery during the time of the judges.

摩押人在歷史的各個節點都曾是亞伯拉罕的後裔以色列的敵人：他們嘗試過詛咒以色列，拒絕接待他們，還在士師記中奴役了他們。

They were despised not only because of their history but their idolatry.

他們不僅因歷史原因遭到怨恨，也因為他們的偶像崇拜。

They worshiped a God, Chemosh, whose worship included human sacrifice.

信奉他們的神，基抹，的方式中包括了人類獻祭。

They were seen as evil and not welcome in Jewish worshiping community.

他們被視為邪惡的人，而且是不在猶太社群中受歡迎的。

“Can this young woman Ruth, with all her cultural and historical baggage, ever be redeemed?”

「路得，一個背負著歷史和文化重擔的年輕的女人，可以得到救贖嗎？」

This is our question too! We all carry reminders of our brokenness. Like my cellphone and computer, if we are self aware we know that we have “cracked up” lives.

這也是我們想問的問題。我們都背負著自己的破碎性的種種提醒。正如我的手機和電腦一樣，如果我們有自我覺察的話就會知曉自己破碎的人生。

There are fissures that run deep into the ways we view God, ourselves, the ways we interact with others. Look how quick we are to fear, to anger, to judgment. We’ve failed so often we wonder, “Can even this be redeemed?”

在我們認識神，認識自己，和與他人接觸的方式裡有著許多裂痕。瞧瞧我們可以這麼快地懼怕，發怒，指責。我們常常犯錯乃至會思考：「這一切還有救嗎？」

What are those messy, broken places in us...in our community...in our church?

在我們之間，我們的社區裡，教會裡的混亂破碎的地方是什麼呢？

A Commitment to Redeem.

一個救贖的承諾。

These 12 verses tell us redemption is possible! 13 times in Hebrew “redeem” or “redeemer” is used. Redeem has multiple meanings. 2 are: “Payment of a price to secure release.” “buy back something that was lost.”

這十二節經文告訴我們救贖是可能的！「救贖」或「救贖者」在希伯來語中被使用了 13 次。救贖有著很多層次的意義。其中的兩個是：「為了保證釋放而支付的代價」和「將某件丟失的事物買回來」。

For these women, it will take something miraculous to redeem them. In Chapter 3 Ruth challenged Boaz with an ancient tradition called a “kinsman redeemer.” A person who could buy back land or a house of a near relative who was in poverty, to keep that property within the family group and maintain community stability. They desperately needed a redeemer!

對於這些女人來說，除了奇蹟以外，他們毫無出路。在第 3 章裡路得向波阿斯施行了名為「親族救贖者」的古老的傳統。一個人可以把貧困的親人的資產購入來維持家庭和社區的穩定。她們急切地需要一個拯救者！

We heard in the last chapter Boaz has the heart of a redeemer. He is willing to go beyond the letter of the law and challenge Israel’s hatred of Moab. He also seems very interested in marrying Ruth! But there are 2 challenges-

在上一章裡我們看見了波阿斯拯救者的心。他願意越過律法的約束去挑戰以色列對摩押的仇恨。他貌似也非常想要娶路得為妻！但是有兩項挑戰—

Challenge 1-there is a closer relative who can be the kinsman redeemer.

第一項挑戰— 有一個在親族關係上更接近的親屬可以成為他們的親族救贖者。

Challenge 2-What will the community think? It’s one thing to see Ruth as an admirable person. It’s something else altogether to bring her into a respectable family. This could be expensive to him financially and hurt his reputation.

第二項挑戰— 這個社會會怎麼看待我們？將路得看作一個值得尊敬的人是一回事。將路得帶進一個有名望的家族是另一回事。這可能會讓他付出很大的金錢和聲望上的代價。

You heard what he did: He takes the case to his version of the courthouse, the city gates. He gathers the witnesses and the nearest relative who can be that kinsman redeemer.

他做的事你也聽到了— 他將整個事件帶到了當時背景下的法庭，也就是城門口。他把證人和那位可以成為親族救贖者的人聚集了起來。

In the Scripture we heard, Boaz calls him “friend,” but the Hebrew sounds like “Peloni Almoni.” Not really a name, but two Rhyming words like “Joe Schmoe.” We might call him Mr. “what’s his name”. That will be important later.

經文中，波阿斯稱呼他為「朋友」，但是希伯來語卻聽著像「佩羅尼·阿勒摩尼」。這並不是個名字，而是兩個押韻的詞放在了一起，好如「喬·施茂」一般。所以我們叫他無名氏先生就好。這一點在之後會起到關鍵的作用。

I love this story. While there certainly are some cultural elements lost to history, there is also a human element in Boaz. 我愛這個故事。雖然有很多文化因素已經流失於歷史之中，但是波阿斯還是保留著一定的人性上的因素。 I picture him thinking: “I really want to marry Ruth...how can I get the other guy to let me?” It’s almost sneaky how he presents it. 我能想像他的心思：「我很想去路得為妻... 我要如何才能讓那個人允許我娶她呢？」他的表達方式甚至有一點偷偷摸摸。

“Listen Peloni Almoni, there’s this simple matter of acquiring Naomi’s land.”

「聽好了佩羅尼·阿勒摩尼，有這麼一件很簡單的事，要把拿娥米的土地買下。」

The other guy says “sure, I’ll take it.”

那個人說：「行，那我就去買下。」

Boaz says... “well, there’s another small matter, the widow comes with the land. You raise crops on Naomi’s land, you need to bring a son into the world to continue the family line.”

波阿斯說：「其實，還有一件小事，那個寡婦會跟著土地一起被買下。你想要在拿娥米的土地上種植的話，你就得剩下一個孩子來延續家族血脈。」

The other guy was like “Woah!” ...And Boaz has his chance.

那個人說：「啊呀！」...此時波阿斯便有了他的機會。

Boaz’ words of redemption may sound a little surprising to you. Not the romantic words we see in love stories or wedding vows:

波阿斯救贖的話語可能會令你有點驚訝。這並不是我們平時在愛情故事或者婚禮誓言中常見到的浪漫情話：

“¹⁰ I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite Mahlon’s widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown.”

「我也獲取了摩押人瑪倫的寡婦路得為妻，好在家中保留去世的人的名字，不讓它從家譜或家鄉裡消失。」

He speaks of “acquiring” Ruth and continuing the name of Elimelech. But remember we are in an ancient culture. Don’t judge him by 21st c. vision of equality. Boaz is acting as a redeemer for Ruth, Naomi and the whole family line.

雖然他說的是「獲取」和為了保留以利米勒的名字，但是我們要記得這是古時候的文化。我們不要用 21 世紀的平等來批判他。波阿斯這是為了贖回路得，拿娥米，和那整個家族。

And the inspired author of the book of Ruth wants to show approval of Boaz’ work of redeeming. And he does it by naming. Names are critical in Scripture. Boaz is redeeming this broken family. A family that has been nameless since Ruth 1:2. But now Elimelech, Mahlon and Kilion are all named once again in vs 9 with Naomi after their names almost died out. “Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon.” The crack in the Community is restored. The redemption has begun.

而路得記的作者想要通過命名來認可波阿斯的行為。在聖經中，名字是至關重要的。波阿斯正在贖回這個破碎的家庭。一個從路得記 1 章 2 節起就淪落為失去姓名的家庭。而如今，以利米勒，摩倫，和基連的名字在險些被遺忘之後重新在第 9 節裡被命名了。「你們今日作 見證、凡屬以利米勒和基連、瑪倫的、我都從拿娥米手中置買了。」那個社區的裂痕被彌補了。救贖就此開始。

Far from being offended that Boaz is set to marry a Moabite, the community blesses him, prays for her to be a matriarch like the mothers of the 12 tribes of Israel and declares Boaz’ name will be known in Bethlehem.

人們沒有因為波阿斯要娶一位摩押女子而感到不快，反而祝福了他，為了路得向 神祈求好叫她可以成為十二支派的母親一般的偉大女子，同時宣誓波阿斯的名字將會讓整個伯利恆知曉。

But the other fellow, that guy, Peloni Almoni, Mr. What’s his name? his name disappears. He had the opportunity to part of a great redemption story; but he missed out. Did you know that you could be a part of the great redemption story of every person you come across?

而另外的那一個人，那個佩羅尼·阿勒摩尼，那位無名氏先生呢？他的名字就此消失了。他曾有機會成為一個偉大的救贖的一部分，但是他錯失了良機。你知道你也可以成為你所遇見的每一個人的偉大救贖的一部分嗎？

Where does this redemption lead in Ruth and Naomi’s lives? Fast forward just over 9 months and Naomi has a child on her knee. The family line is restored and the community is celebrating. All Naomi’s old women friends gathered around. Her friends bless her like the community blesses Boaz and Ruth.

者份救贖將如何帶領路得和拿娥米的人生呢？九個月後，拿娥米的膝下已經有了一個孩子。這個家族傳承的復甦是人們一起慶祝了起來。拿娥米上年紀的女性朋友們也聚集起來祝福她，正如人們祝福了波阿斯和路得一般。

There's one last name...The women name him "Obed", which means "serve or worship". They say this boy will "renew" and "nourish" Naomi. This is God's answer to the questions we started with. Can broken things be restored? Yes! It's in God's character! Naomi's great great grandson, king David will use the same descriptors for God.

這個故事中還剩下最後一個名字...女人們給他起名叫「俄備得」，意思是「侍奉或敬拜」。她們說這個孩子將會「更新」和「滋養」拿娥米。這就是神對於我們一開始的問題所給出的回答。破損毀壞了的事物可以被修復嗎？可以的！這是屬神的！拿娥米的曾曾孫，大衛王將會以同樣的方式去描述神。

"Renews your life"-Psalm 23:2 and 3-He leads me beside still waters, He renews my soul!

更新你的生命—詩篇 23 篇 2-3 節—祂領我於安息的水邊，祂更新我的靈魂！

Nourish...Psalm 55²² Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain or Nourish you.

滋養...詩篇 55 篇 22 節—你要把你的重擔卸給耶和華，祂必滋養你。

We need to hear the good news in this text for our lives, in our time. There's another name celebrated in Bethlehem.

One who redeems-our family roots, issues, our tragedies and our sins. Jesus meets us right in the middle of our mess.

我們需要在這個故事裡聽到我們自己的喜訊。伯利恆還有一個被高舉敬拜的名字。是那個救贖我們家庭的根莖，問題，悲劇，和罪孽的名字。耶穌在我們生活的破碎混亂的正當中與我們相見。

The author of the astonished heart writes. "He comes to us in the brokenness of our health, in the shipwreck of our family lives, in the loss of all possible peace of mind, even in the very thick of our sins. He saves us in our disasters, not from them...he meets us all in our endless and inescapable losing."

《驚喜的心》的作者寫道：「祂總是在我們身心俱疲，家庭搖搖欲墜，找不到平安，甚至罪孽深重的時候來到我們身邊。祂在我們的苦難之中拯救我們，而不是將我們帶離苦難。祂在我們無窮無盡，毫無出路的失敗之中與我們相見。」

In your broken places, in your messes, Listen to these words of God, some of his last words in the Bible. Revelation 21:5 "Look, I am making everything new!" May God give you courage to open your heart to let him renew the broken places in you today.

在你破損的地方，在你的混亂之中，請聆聽這些來自神的話語，也是聖經最後的教導。啟示錄 21 章 5 節：「看啊，我將一切都更新了。」願神給你敞開心扉的勇氣，好讓祂在今天更新你內在所有破碎的地方。