



Consumer? Ruth 1-4

Man was created in the image of God to be a generous caretaker of all that God created.

But when sin entered the world, men became greedy consumers of forbidden fruit.

- Cain preyed upon his younger brother.
- In Judges 19-21, men preyed upon women.



1. What examples are there of the weak in this story?
 - Women-Naomi and Ruth
 - Widow-Naomi and Ruth
 - Foreigner-Ruth
 - Poor-Naomi and Ruth
 - Elderly-Naomi

These women were without provision or protection.

2. Who was the greedy consumer in this story?

John Doe was not willing to fulfill his responsibility as the family redeemer. He was willing to be the kinsmen redeemer if it would add to his riches and inheritance. He was in it for the benefits. He would take advantage of the weak to get those benefits. He was a greedy consumer.

3. Who was the generous caretaker in this story?

Boaz was a generous caretaker. He was willing to be the kinsmen redeemer even though the land that he purchased would belong to Elimelech's descendants through Ruth and even though those same descendants would have a claim in his inheritance. He was in it to benefit others. He was a generous caretaker.

4. Are you a greedy consumer or a generous caretaker?

Greed is a sneaky closet-dweller and it is so difficult to see in myself. Thank goodness, I have the Word of God and the Spirit of God.

5. Who were the most notorious greedy consumers in the gospels?

The most religious people. They were blind to their greed because of their pride in their religious practices. If the Holy Spirit convicted them they would dismiss the feeling by considering the good things they did.

6. How do I discern if I am greedy?

[How do I discern if I am greedy?](#)

- [I have a secret motive to be rich. \(1 Timothy 6:9-10\)](#)

1 Timothy 6:9-10

9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

NKJV

- [I give generously to others if I benefit. \(Luke 14:13-14\)](#)

Luke 14:13-14

13 But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind.

14 And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

NKJV

- [I give my left overs away to those things that are most important to God. \(Mark 12:41-44\)](#)

Mark 12:41-44

41 Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much.

42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans.

43 So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury;

44 for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."

NKJV

- I am discontent because I have a strong persistent desire for what others have. (1 Timothy 6:6-8; James 4:1-4)

1 Timothy 6:6-8

6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

NKJV

James 4:1-4

1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?

2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

NKJV

- I have very little regard for the weak. (James 1:27)

James 1:27

27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

NKJV

- I persistently complain when something changes, and it causes me an inconvenience. (Philippians 2:14-15)

Philippians 2:14-15

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,

15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

NKJV

- I focus on my needs and my comfort. (Philippians 2:3-4)

Philippians 2:3-4

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

NKJV

7. If I am a greedy consumer, how do I change?

If I am a greedy consumer, I am either spiritually immature or I am not a Christian.

If I am spiritually immature, I need to grow spiritually.

To grow spiritually, I need fellowship...

- Fellowship with God (Romans 8:1-5; Galatians 5:16-18)
- Fellowship with God's people (Acts 2:42; Hebrews 3:13)
- Fellowship with God's purpose (Matthew 4:19; Matthew 28:19-20)

If I am not a Christian, I need to receive Jesus Christ.

Boaz was an unusual man. Throughout the Old Testament there are certain people that are types of Jesus. This means that the lives of these people foreshadowed the coming of Jesus and what He would do for the world.

Noah

- He loved his family
- He sacrificed himself to build an ark to save his family
- He led his family to safety on the ark

Moses

- He loved the people of Israel
- He forsook the riches of Egypt for the people of Israel
- He sacrificed himself to deliver the people of Israel from bondage
- He led the people of Israel to the promised land

Boaz

- He loved Naomi and Ruth
- He forsook his inheritance for them
- He sacrificed himself to provide for their needs
- He redeemed what they had lost
- He gave them His identity and his inheritance

Jesus

- He loved the world
- He forsook the riches of heaven for you.
- He sacrificed himself to save you.
- He redeemed you from sin.
- He offered you His identity and inheritance

Will you receive Jesus?

Will you grow spiritually?