

## Ruth Chapter 3

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V: 1 Naomi is seeking Ruth's "rest", that it may be well with her. Basically Naomi is trying to secure Ruth's future.

- Rest: (H4494) manowach, maw-no'-akh; quiet, a settled spot, or a home, a place of rest.
- Fiddler on the roof – match maker, match maker!

V: 2 Stating the obvious; Boaz fits the bill, and here's the plan.

- Winnowing: using the night breezes, they would crush the grain then toss it into the air. The breeze would carry the husk or outer shell off to the side and the heavier grain would fall back down into the pile, thus separating the wheat from the chaff.
- When their work was done they would sleep on the floor near the threshed grain to protect the harvest.
- As Naomi sees these things unfolding, there is the realization that other men would gladly have married Ruth, but they could not have redeemed her. Only a kinsman could do that, and Boaz was that kinsman.

V: 3 Wash, anoint, put on thy raiment (special clothes vs: going naked... 😊)

- The priests would go through a process of sanctification prior to entering into the presence or into the Holy of Hollies: It involved washing, anointing, and special robes.

**Leviticus 8:6-7, 12** “<sup>6</sup>And Moses brought Aaron and his sons, and washed them with water. <sup>7</sup>And he put upon him the coat, and girded him with the girdle, and clothed him with the robe...” “<sup>12</sup>And he poured of the anointing oil upon Aaron's head...”

- There was a sanctification process for those preparing to enter into the presence of the Lord.
- Boaz is a representation of our Redeemer, Ruth is the bride:

**Ephesians 5:25-27** “<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; <sup>26</sup>that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup>that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

- As believers we go through the same process:

Washing:

**John 15:3** “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”

Anointed - with the Holy Spirit:

**2 Corinthians 1:21-22** “<sup>21</sup>Now He which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; <sup>22</sup>who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”

**Hebrews 1:9** “Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.”

Robed:

**Isaiah 61:10** “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.”

- Ruth would be removing her widows garments, and exchanging them for wedding garments.
- Go down to the threshing floor and wait – let him eat and drink, and be satisfied.

V: 4 No grand entrance, discretion is the order of the day – watch to see, take note where he lays down.

The angel speaking to the women after the resurrection:

**Matthew 28:6** “...Come, see the place where the Lord lay.”

- Uncover his feet, then lay down at his feet – he will direct you from there.

V: 5 Ruth is committed to following the counsel of her mother in law.

V: 6 Ruth did everything according as Naomi instructed her.

- Up to this point we've seen Ruth gleaning in the field, taking what she can.
- At the threshing floor we see Ruth giving of herself. The threshing floor speaks of separation, the good from the bad, and it speaks of sacrifice.

- David's sinful actions, numbering the people had brought a plague upon Israel:

- Following God's direction, David went to obtain a place to sacrifice to God. (When David came to Araunah's threshing floor.

**2 Samuel 24:24-25** “<sup>24</sup>And the king said unto Araunah, nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. (50 Jubilee / release – silver / Redemption) <sup>25</sup>And David built there an altar unto the Lord, and offered burn

offerings and peace offerings. So the Lord was entreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.”

**Judges 6** Previously Gideon was commissioned as a mighty man of valor and judge of Israel while threshing wheat.

Later Jesus told Peter:

**Luke 22:31** “And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.”

- The threshing floor is a place of separation and also of sacrifice.

**Romans 12:1** “I beseech you therefore, brethren by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

V: 7 Laying down at the feet of Boaz.

- In Gadderah there was a demon possessed man that terrorized all the locals, but when he came into contact with Jesus he was healed.

**Luke 8:35** “Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind:...”

Mary & Martha

**Luke 10:39, 42** <sup>39</sup>“And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus’ feet, and heard his word.” – <sup>42</sup>“But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

- Sculptor Thors Walden chiseled a famous statue of Jesus, due to the position of his body you could not see the face of Jesus until you knelt down at his feet.

V: 8-9 Ruth has come in so subtly that she hadn’t disturbed Boaz in his sleep, but now he’s startled awake sensing the presence of someone near him, a woman.

- Adam went to sleep one night and woke up to find that he was now a married man, he a picture of a man who didn’t work for it, but just rested in God who brought him the perfect help meet.
- Jacob picked his own wife and worked to get her for 7 years only to wake up with the wrong woman.
- Upon awakening Boaz asks who is there, and Ruth responds by identifying herself, then she asks Boaz “cover” her.
- Ruth is asking Boaz to fulfill the office or function of the kinsmen redeemer, and she’s asking in a way that fulfills the Word of God.

**Deuteronomy 25: 5-10** “<sup>5</sup>If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband’s brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband’s brother unto her. <sup>6</sup>And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother which is dead, that his name be not put out of Israel. <sup>7</sup>And if the man like not to take his brother’s wife, then let his brother’s wife go up to the gate unto the elders, and say, my husband’s brother refuseth to raise up unto his brother a name in Israel, he will not perform the duty of my husband’s brother. <sup>8</sup>Then the elders of his city shall call him, and speak unto him: and if he stand to it, and say, I like not to take her; <sup>9</sup>then shall his brother’s wife come unto him in the presence of the elders, and loose his shoe from off his foot, and spit in his face, and shall answer and say, so shall it be done unto that man that will not build up his brother’s house. <sup>10</sup>And his name shall be called in Israel, the house of him that hath his shoe loosed.”

- Many years later the Sadducees attempted to snare Jesus in a question using this tradition from the law as the basis of their question 7 brothers and one woman with no children – amongst other things this just points out that this was practiced by the people and they were familiar with it.

V: 10 Boaz responds positively to this gesture and request; he’s impressed that she would consider him, apparently an older man as opposed to someone younger or more her equal in age.

- Boaz indicates that he is the one who is blessed. It blesses our redeemer when we glean in his field, it blesses our redeemer when we seek his covering, when we yield ourselves to Him.

V: 11 Don’t worry, I’ll do what you’ve asked – everyone has seen that you are a virtuous woman.

- Ruth has a good reputation in the community:

**Proverbs 12:4** “A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.”

- Boaz being a picture of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ – responds by accepting Ruth. Like Ruth, we are accepted in the beloved.
- Part of his accepting her was that he pronounced a blessing upon her, called her his daughter implying again relationship.
- His first command to her is “fear not” – as is His command to us – fear not, I’m with you!

- Ruth laid down, rested at his feet, and he accepted her.

**James 4:8** “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you...”

V: 12 This conversation is taking place in whispers & hushed tones – in the dark.

- Boaz knows that he’s a kinsmen, but he also knows that there is another who is closer.
- What this reveals is that he has already considered this scenario; Ruth coming to him as she has may well have been the confirmation that he was looking for.

**Proverbs 15:23** “A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!

**Proverbs 25:11** “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.”

V: 13 Wait until tomorrow; if the other man would redeem the property and take Ruth as his wife, then fine; but if he won’t then as surely as God lives Boaz will gladly be the redeemer.

- This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time Boaz has assured the bride that he would complete the task.

Our Boaz tells us the same thing:

**1 Philippians 1:6** “Being confident of this very thing, that He which begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

V: 14 Ruth laid at Boaz’s feet until the early morning, but while it was still too dark to recognize people she got up and left.

- During all this time she couldn’t see him, couldn’t recognize him by sight – she knew his voice.

**John 10:27** “My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow Me.”

- He basically instructed her not to tell anyone that she’d been there – protecting her reputation – truly being a covering to her.

V: 15-17 Before she left he told her to take her veil and hold it out. As she held it out, he filled it with 6 measures of barley.

V: 16 Who Art thou, my daughter?

1. Are you still my daughter, are you married?
2. Still too dark to tell who’s who in the zoo – who’s that – my daughter is that you?

- He instructed her not to return to her mother in law empty, have something to give to her, which he provided.
- Naomi had said that she came back empty, Boaz is saying not any more!

**Psalm 23:5** “Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.”

- Genesis describes that in 6 days God worked, but on the 7<sup>th</sup> day He rested from all his works.
- When she worked and gleaned in the field she walked away with a bushel of barley; hear her redeemer blesses her with 6 measures or about 2 bushels of barley, roughly a two week supply.
- He is seeking to meet all her needs, he’s doing so very considerately, and he’s sending a message.
- Boaz is telling her that her gleaning day, her working days are over.
- He will work, He will do the work, and not rest until his work is complete, we see that Naomi understands this message in the next verse.

Our Redeemer tells us the same thing:

**John 19:30** “It is finished” – paid in full, complete.

V: 18 Sit still – not the most often repeated command in the bible, but surely one of the most difficult!

**Psalm 46:10** “Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.”

- Be still and allow God to do what He wants to do.
- Naomi; Boaz will not rest until this thing is settled.

**Isaiah 30:15** “For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; in returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength...”