

Ruth - Chapter 3

Theme: Ruth finding “rest”

v. 1 - Naomi asks her an important question.

- “rest” here is not physical sleep or retiring from a long day of work.
- “rest” is defined in 1:9 as getting married, being cared for by a husband, and resting from having to work outside the home to make ends meet.
- PA - Resting from works in order to be saved.- Matt. 11:28-29; Rom. 4:5; Heb. 4:10
- Naomi is trying to help Ruth by becoming a “match-maker” - 1 Cor. 10:24
- Marriage (**only** between one man and one woman) is ordained of God. - Gen 2:18, 21-25; Matt. 19:5-6; Eph. 5:31
- Any other union is an abomination before God. - Lev. 18:22-23, 20:10-13; Deut. 22:20-30; For further reading: Ezek. 16 & 23
- The Bible teaches that the husband is responsible to be the provider and “breadwinner” for the home. - 1 Tim. 5:8
- The **Biblical role** for the wife in the home. - Prov. 14:1; 1 Tim. 5:14; Titus 2:4-5

v. 2 - Naomi again brings up Boaz as a person she wants Ruth to take note of.

- The Bible never tells us how close of kin Boaz is to Naomi, but in v. 9 Boaz is identified as a “near kinsman,” but v. 12 says “there is a kinsman closer than I.”
- Jesus Christ is our “near kinsman” by being manifested in the flesh. - 1 Tim. 3:16; Phil. 2:5-11
- “winnoweth” (threshing process) - to break the ears from the stalks and loosen the kernels from the husks, then the winnowing fan blows the chaff away.
- Threshing → At the 2nd Advent, the Lord crushes and destroys the Antichrist, including all of His enemies in the whole Gentile world and casts them into hell. - Dan. 2:35; Matt. 21:44; Luke 3:17; Mark. 9:44, 46, 48; Zeph. 3:8; 2 Thess. 1:8-9
- The Bible likens the ungodly to the chaff in the wind. - Ps. 1:4

v. 3 - Instructions from Naomi to Ruth

- “wash thyself” (2 applications)
 1. Salvation (positional) - Titus 3:5; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Rev. 1:5
 2. Daily cleansing (practical) - John 13:1-15; Eph. 5:26-27; Col. 3:5-10; 2 Cor. 7:1; James 4:8
- “anoint thee” → oil is type of the Holy Spirit - Ex. 29:7; “unction” - 1 John 2: 20, 27
- “put thy raiment upon thee” → get dressed. - Rev. 19:8
- The Bible teaches modest dressing. A woman’s dress habits will attract the type of men which match her dress habits. - Ruth 3:11b; 1 Tim. 2:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:3-4
- “get thee down to the floor” → humble yourself - Luke 14:11, 22:39-45; James 4:10

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- Kneeling is the proper position for prayer. - 1 Kings 8:54; Ps. 95:6; Dan. 6:10; Mark 1:40-42; Acts 9:40, 20:36, 21:5
- Don't identify yourself until Boaz is done eating and drinking.

v. 4 - Naomi's instructions continued.

- Notice details. PA: People need to learn to follow detailed instructions.
- These instructions require waiting and patience. - 3:18
- Boaz represents Christ laying down his life at Calvary for sinners. - John 10:17-18
- Boaz' feet covered simply means he was asleep under the covers. - Judges 3:24
- By Ruth uncovering Boaz feet, she was communicating to him that it was his duty (v.9) to marry her and raise up children to his kin Elimelech, who had died. - Deut. 25:5-10
- PA - Upon salvation, it is natural to seek God's will. - Acts 9:1-6

vv. 5-6 - Ruth's submissive attitude and her complete obedience to Naomi.

- Ruth provides an example to the church to simply obey! - Gen. 6:22; Ex. 40:16; Deut. 30:2, 8; Josh. 1:8; John 2:5, John 14:15; James 1:22; Acts 5:29
- Ruth does not question or rebel against her instructions.

v. 7 - Boaz's actions in vv. 7-13 have much importance and meaning, e.g. Calvary!

- The bride (Ruth/church) gets espoused to the bridegroom (Boaz/Jesus Christ)
- The church (the bride, the body of Christ) comprised of all born again believers (already dead or alive today) are espoused **right now** to Jesus Christ.
- While God established individual local churches to carry out His mission, each local church is **not** a separate body of Christ, i.e. there is only one body of Christ. - Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 10:17; 12:12-27; Eph. 2:16; 4:4-5; Col. 3:15
- An espousal is stronger than an engagement.
- But the marriage has not been consummated yet, but will be at the marriage supper of the Lamb at the 2nd Advent. - Rev. 19:4-9
- "drunk" is past tense of "drink" (it's a verb, not an adjective); he did **not** get merry by getting drunk on alcoholic wine. How do we know this?
- Boaz represents Jesus Christ, so it could not have been alcoholic wine.
- Some claim Jesus made fermented alcoholic wine in John 2:6-11
- A firkin is about 9 gallons so each of the six waterpots had between 18-27 gallons apiece, so the total for 6 waterpots would be between 108-162 gallons.
- **If** Jesus made fermented alcoholic wine in John 2, then he violated the OT Law - Hab. 2:15, Lev. 10:8-10 (priest); Ezek. 44:21 (priests); Prov. 31:4-5 (kings & princes); Prov. 20:1; Isa. 28:7-8 (priests & prophets)
- Jesus Christ is our High Priest - Heb. 3:1
- Believers are "kings and priests" unto God (positionally). - Rev. 1:4-6, 5:10

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- What did Jesus drink? “fruit of the vine” (fresh grape juice out of the cluster, called “new wine” in Isa. 65:8) - Matt. 26:29; Deut. 32:14
 - Jesus made a supernatural or miraculous (non-alcoholic) new wine in John 2.
 - “merry” → cheerfulness; gladness; joyfulness. - Prov. 15:13,15, 17:22; Heb. 12:2
 - “lie down” → Jesus laying down His life for sinners. - John 10:17-18
 - Ruth comes “softly” (quietly) and uncovers Boaz’s feet and lays down at them.
- v. 8 - Boaz midnight surprise and shock as he awakens from his sleep.
- In the Bible, sleep can mean physical death. - 1 Cor. 15:6, 18; 1 Thess. 4:14, 5:10
 - So Boaz sleep represents Christ’s physical death on the Cross of Calvary.
 - Boaz becomes afraid, turns himself over and sees a woman lying at his feet.
 - When Boaz awakes, he gets a bride just like Adam and Jesus Christ. - Gen 2:21-23; Eph. 5:22-32
- v. 9 - Boaz’s question and Ruth’s answer
- “spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid” - Ruth’s answer is essentially a marriage covenant proposal to Boaz - Ezek. 16:8 This would represent an unbeliever calling on the name of the Lord for salvation. - Rom. 10:13
 - Ruth wants to be Boaz’s wife and get under his protective care. - 2 Sam. 22:1-4
- v. 10 - Boaz’s response
- Boaz wants the blessing of the Lord upon Ruth, just like the Lord wants to bless His children today in the church who faithfully live for and serve Him. - James 1:22
 - **Bible Principle** - Obedience brings about God’s blessings while disobedience brings God’s wrath, judgment, chastening & consequences. (Assign Deut. 11 & 28)
 - Boaz recounts Ruth’s as having shown even more kindness toward him than the kindness she originally showed towards Naomi.
 - Boaz further recognizes Ruth for not having gone after younger or richer men.
 - It is essential to get God’s direction for who to marry.
 - Ruth desires to marry a near kinsman as required by rules the OT Law based on Naomi’s instructions in vv. 1-5.
 - As a result, Ruth ends up in the line of Christ as David’s great-grandmother.
- v. 11 - Boaz grants Ruth’s request
- By calling to Ruth “my daughter,” Boaz is agreeing to protect and care for Ruth.
 - “fear not” - God will keep His promises. - Isa. 35:4
 - Those who walk with God have no need to fear. - Ps. 56:11
 - Boaz praises the virtue of Ruth and doesn’t take advantage of the situation.
 - Throughout the entire city, Ruth has gained the reputation as a virtuous woman.

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- Ruth fears the true God and because she represents the church, the church should have all the attributes of a virtuous woman. - Prov. 31:10-31
- v. 12 - Boaz acknowledges he is a near kin, but he points out to Ruth there is a kinsman nearer than him.
- The nearest kin had the first right to redeem Naomi's property by marrying Ruth.
- v. 13 - Boaz follows the clear protocol as required by the OT law. - Deut. 25:5-9
- Boaz responds with complete honesty, integrity, and good character.
 - Boaz instructs Ruth to stay where she's at until morning when he will investigate the intentions of the nearer kinsman.
 - Boaz swears a vow before the LORD "as the LORD liveth" that he will fulfill the role of the kinsman redeemer if the nearer kinsman does not do so.
 - The "nearer kinsman" **could be** God the Father sending Jesus Christ as God manifest in the flesh down to earth to redeem mankind from his sins.
- v. 14 - Ruth obeys Boaz and lays at his feet till morning (no physical relations at all).
- Ruth awoke & got up before anybody could see she had laid at Boaz feet all night.
 - Boaz tells Ruth not to tell anybody so no gossip or false rumors would get started causing people jump to the wrong conclusion. - Eccl. 3:1-8(v.7); Amos 5:13
 - Timing is very important. Truth must be spoken only at **the right time!**
 - Boaz didn't want to **even appear** to have committed evil. - 1 Thess. 5:22
 - Boaz was concerned about his testimony, and so should we!
- v. 15 - Boaz generously gives Ruth six measures of barley. - Ps. 68:19; Phil. 4:19
- Ruth uses her vail (covering for her face) to make a tote bag.
 - Vail has been removed in NT by Jesus Christ. - 2 Cor. 3:12-17
 - But more than that, this barley represents a down payment on the espousal.
 - PA: For the believer, the Holy Spirit is the earnest of our promised inheritance. - Eph. 1:13-14; 2 Cor. 1:22
 - Boaz demonstrates by his actions his sincere desire to provide for & care for Ruth.
 - We show our love (or lack of love) for the Lord by what we do. - John 14:15
 - 6 is the # of man. - Gen. 1:24-31; Rom. 6:6 (6th word "man"); Rev. 13:18; Dan. 3:1
 - Barley "laid it on her". PA →The Church should take what we've been given and minister to both the lost (salvation) and also to the saved (discipleship).
- v. 16 - Naomi's intriguing question
- Naomi knew it was Ruth, of course, but was questioning her to see if anything had changed about her marital status, i.e. "are you now married?"

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- Ruth has been espoused but of course is not yet married (**her position** has changed!). PA: 2 Cor. 11:2

v. 17 - Ruth's answer

- Boaz had told her "go not empty unto thy mother in law"
- PA: Don't go to heaven empty handed. - Matt. 6:1-4, 19-21; Ps. 126:5-6

v. 18 - Naomi's response

- Ruth had asked Boaz to be the kinsman redeemer, and he agreed in vv.9-13.
- Now she must wait to see what happens between Boaz and the nearer kinsman.
- "sit still" - be patient. - Ps. 46:10; 27:14 (God's work **requires** patience!)
- Both the church and Jesus Christ have waited nearly 2000 years. - Rom. 8:22-23
- We must simply trust in the Lord. - Prov. 3:5-6, 29:25
- Boaz representing Christ will finish the work. - John 4:34, 17:4, 19:30; Heb. 10:12
- Naomi knows that Boaz is anxious to get a virtuous bride.