

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: *Ruth* – verse by verse

Scripture(s) for Today: Ruth 3:1-18 – Naomi leads Ruth to ask Boaz for redemption and marriage

Today's Message:

"The Midnight Prayer"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we saw Ruth go to work following the provision of God set forth in the Old Testament. She just happened to step into a field of Boaz and worked hard for the gleanings. Boaz showed Ruth grace and kindness; Naomi was surprised to see her with such blessings! Today, Naomi will lead Ruth to **ASK** Boaz to **redeem** her for his own. Truly, there is **ROMANCE** in redemption! Pay close attention as we search the Scriptures to discover a provision from the words of God that will **SAVE** this humble stranger!

LEARNING TOGETHER

A. The Text Ruth 3:1-18

#1. *The Mother's Plan* – Naomi wanted to seek **REST** for Ruth. (1-5)

➤ *Naomi had a plan to help Ruth position herself to receive God's blessing.*

✓ WHAT HAPPENED

- Boaz was *winnowing* barley in the threshing floor. *Isa 30:24; Mt 3:12*
- Naomi told Ruth to prepare herself for Boaz and gave detailed instructions.
- Ruth told Naomi that she would do **ALL** that she had said.

W1828: *Winnow*
To separate and drive off the chaff from the grain by means of wind.

✓ COMPARING SCRIPTURES

- **Law of the Kinsman Redeemer** – called the "*goel*" in Hebrew; the one who had a right to "*redeem*"; referring to an ancient custom ordained by Moses.

The Kinsman Redeemer was responsible to:

- 1 – Buy a family member out of slavery – *Lev 25:48*
- 2 – Be the "*revenger of blood*" to a murderer of a family member – *Num 35:19*
- 3 – Buy back family land that had been forfeited – *Lev 25:25*
- 4 – Carry on the family name by marrying a childless widow – *Deut 25:5-10*

- **Levirate Law** – an ancient custom ordained by Moses, by which, when an Israelite died without issue, his surviving brother was required to marry the widow to continue his brother's family through the son that might be born. Its object was to "*raise up seed to the departed brother*" **Gen 38:8; Deut 25:5-10**

Levirate Law – from the Latin word *levir* meaning "a husband's brother"

NOTE The fundamental idea of the *goel* is fulfilling one's obligation as a *kinsman*. He was responsible to **safeguard** the *persons*, the *property*, and the *posterity* of the family. What a picture of our Lord Jesus Christ – *the Redeemer of Adam's race!* Amen!!!

2022 VISION: *This is our time!*
Making disciples and caring for souls!

#2. The Midnight Prayer – Ruth laid down at the FEET of Boaz. (6-14)

➤ *Ruth went down unto the threshing floor and did all that Naomi said.*

✓ **WHAT HAPPENED**

W1828: Virtuous
Morally good; acting in conformity to the moral or divine law; chaste (2Cor 11:2; Tit 2:5; 1Pet 3:2) free from obscenity. Obedient to God's words.

- Ruth came *softly*, and *uncovered his feet*, and *laid down*.
- At **midnight**, Boaz was startled, and Ruth *prayed her request*. **Ex11:4; Acts16:25**
- Ruth asked Boaz to *cover her* with his SKIRT as a *near kinsman*.
- Boaz responded in a positive, tender-hearted way toward Ruth.
- Boaz said *he would do all she required*; **everyone knew she was virtuous!**
- There was a potential problem; Boaz was not the CLOSEST kinsman!

✓ **COMPARING SCRIPTURES**

- *Spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid* – as God did to Israel! **Ezek 16:8**
- *For thou art a near kinsman* – Ruth was asking Boaz to *redeem* her! **Deut 25:5**
- *Thou art a virtuous woman* – only Ruth is called *virtuous* – **Prov 12:4; 31:10-31**
- **If he will not do the part of a kinsman** – **Mt 26:39; Rom 7:1-4; 8:1-4; 1Cor 7:39**

NOTE There was nothing immoral going on this night! Ruth was in a humble and discreet way asking for Boaz to REDEEM her! The skirt covering was a picture of redemption!

#3. The Measured Promise – he gave SIX measures of barley for Naomi. (15-18)

➤ *Boaz wanted to give Ruth six measures for Naomi who understood the meaning.*

✓ **WHAT HAPPENED**

- Boaz gave Ruth *six measures* of barley to give to Naomi.
- Ruth told Naomi the *six measures* were for her from Boaz.
- Naomi understood the gesture to be a PROMISE from Boaz.

✓ **COMPARING SCRIPTURES**

- *These six measures of barley gave he me...* – **Gen 2:1-3; Ex 23:12; 34:21; Lev 23:3**
- **Sit still, my daughter, until thou know** how the matter will fall – **Ps 46:10; Isa30:7**
- **For the man will not be in rest, until he have finished** – **Ps 27:14; 37:1,7; Php 1:6**

NOTE Boaz promised Ruth he would handle the legalities; Naomi knew he would not rest!

B. The Lessons (How can you apply this message to your life?)

1. *The story of Ruth reminds us there is ROMANCE in redemption; Jesus saved us!*

❖ **Question:** *Do you have dead religion or a personal, love relationship with Christ? Eph 2*

2. *Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus our blessed Redeemer! ... ever in joyful SONG!*

❖ **Question:** *What is robbing you of joy in Jesus Christ? Repent now! Jn 13:17; Eph 3:14-21*

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