

The Book of Ruth is a love story - it is a Great Romance story  
but even more importantly - It's a picture of the Love  
that Jesus Christ has for His Bride

There's Big Theology here - And There's big Romantic Drama

This book is written like a Great Romantic Suspense Movie  
& that's why we love the Book of Ruth

& Ch 3 today - we see some really great Events . . .

Both on the Romantic Suspense side  
AND on the Deep Truths of God side

## Let's Pray

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Remember - we left Ruth following after Boaz's workers in the field  
Gleaning what they left behind

& Ch 2 says she did this for BOTH the entire Barley Harvest  
AND the Wheat Harvest

But now - it's come to the END of the harvest -  
& when the harvest is over - things could change for Ruth

So it seems Mom-in-Law Naomi kinda feels like  
"Time is of the Essence" here

So she's gonna HELP things get moving along a bit

## **Ruth 3:1 (esv)**

**1 Then** (the end of the harvest) **Naomi her mother-in-law said to her,**  
**“My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you?”**

It seems **Naomi** is **recovering** from her **bitterness** & **negative** spirit

**I’m sure Ruth** meeting **Boaz**, a Kinsman, on her **first day** in the fields  
Helped **Naomi’s heart** start **turning** toward **hope** again

& so **Naomi** says to **Ruth** - **should I not seek rest for you**  
Meaning - **should I not try to find you a Husband ??**

**Naomi** knows - There is a **Kinsman Redeemer** for Ruth - **Very Near**  
& so - **Naomi’s** gonna give **Ruth** some “**Counsel**”

**Maybe** it’s like **Titus 2** says - the **OLDER** women  
**should** give **counsel** to the **YOUNGER** women

**But Naomi** gives **Ruth** - **seemingly** - some pretty **Risky** counsel

## **Naomi starts by saying to Ruth in Ruth 3:2 (esv)**

**2 Is not Boaz our relative** (Kinsman), **with whose young women you were? . . .**

**Since** the day **Ruth** met **Boaz** in the field

**Naomi** has been thinking “**Boaz is a close Relative, he could be a “Kinsman-Redeemer” - “This could be really GOOD!”**”

& so **she’s been** asking Ruth **every day** . . .

**Tell me about your day . . . Did you see Boaz?**

**Did you talk to Him? . . . Did he look at you? . . . Right?**

Naomi sees a Kinsman Redeemer on the Horizon  
& she's gonna "Encourage" Ruth in that Direction

**So again - Naomi says in Ruth 3:2 (esv)**

***2 Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you were?  
See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.***

The threshing floor is where the workers  
separate the grain from the chaff

They would crush the stalks - then throw the grain in the air,  
the wind would blow the Chaff away  
& they'd scoop the grain up into a big pile

Now - the Threshing floor was always - a HARVEST PARTY  
& even more so this night

There'd been years of Famine - & this may be  
the first full crop since the Famine had ended

& so everyone is going out to the threshing floor working  
& celebrating, & thanking God for an abundant harvest

So there is one serious Party Goin On down there

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& now in V. 3 comes what some consider "Questionable" Advice

**Naomi tells Ruth - in Ruth 3:3(a) (esv)**

***3 Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and  
go down to the threshing floor, . . .***

OK, Naomi's tellin Ruth - come on honey, we need to get you  
dressed up like Cinderella & get you to the BALL

**We got** get you to the **Spa** - get you a **Bath** -  
get your **Hair & Nails Done** - **Shave Your Pits** - maybe get you a  
**Pedicure** for those **Cute Jesus Sandals** you wear

then **we got** to put you in a **nice dress** - **no more** showing up  
like a **poor girl pickin left-over grain in the field**

**Tonight's** the night honey - we **got to** get you **ready**

It's **interesting** - Some **commentators** - maybe **because** they're  
**flustered** a bit here - turn all this into **metaphorical illustrations**

You know - the "**Wash**" means this - the "**Anoint**" means this  
the "**Put on New Clothes**" means this . . .

But they **forget** - this is **BOTH** a Great Picture of **Our Redemption**  
**AND** a Great **Suspense Romance** (*which I think this is part of*)

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But if you think **THAT** was **Edgy** Advice - look at the 2nd half of **v.3**

**Namoi cont's her "counsel" in Ruth 3:3(b) (esv)**  
***3. . . but do not make yourself known to the man until he has  
finished eating and drinking.***

Honey - **Just wait** - Don't be **too-anxious** - Play a little **hard to get**

just **keep yourself** lookin **good** - **wait** till he's **eaten**  
& till he's **drank** a little - & **THEN** - you **make your move**

Now that **seems** like counsel that's "**Pushin the Limits**"  
for a **Godly Woman**

But **stay** on the **edge of your seat**  
**Cause** it's all **gonna work out** by the end of **the movie**

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& So **NOW** - if you **Really Thought** V.3 was **Edgy**  
You're **gonna fall out** of your **seat** in **V.4**

**Namoi** tells **Ruth** - get all **Cinderelled** up - Play a little **hard to get**  
**Wait** till he's finished **eating & drinking** . . . & then . . .

### **Ruth 3:4 (esv)**

*4 But when he lies down, observe the place where he lies. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do."*

This sounds like **Very Dangerous** Counsel - because **we know** what  
**most men** in **Our Culture** would **Do** in this situation

& **actually** - the time of **the Judges** wasn't **that different**  
& **that's why** this sounds **SO CRAZY** to us

But we can **Assume Naomi KNOWS** something about **Boaz**

In **Ch 2** he's called a **WORTHY** Man  
& I think **Naomi** knows how **Boaz** feels about **Ruth**

So - this **sounds** like **RADICAL Counsel**

**But God** is working out a **Miracle** here - **AND**, he's also **Setting Up**  
a **wonderful Picture** of OUR **Kinsman Redeemer**

So just "**Hold On to your Bible**" - & we're **gonna see**  
**God** is in **Perfect Control** of this entire situation

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& so Ruth - Not knowing the customs of Israel

says to Naomi - in Ruth 3:5 (esv)

*5 And she (Ruth) replied, "All that you say I will do."*

Ruth had put her full faith in the God of Israel

& she commits to follow His ways, thru Naomi's counsel

Now - Ruth Could've gone about this the MOABITE way

The Moabite people BEGAN in an Incest relationship  
between Lot & his daughter

They were known as worldly, sexually perverted people (like us)  
& Ruth could've gone back to those roots

But, as Paul says in 1Cor 6:11 - *And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified . . .*

& THAT is Ruth Now - & Now - she's doing it God's way

& she's trusting God - & God is going to bless her tremendously

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& so we read in Ruth 3:6 (esv)

*6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her.*

Cinderella is on the Edge of the Ball now -

She's all Dolled Up - The workers don't even Recognize her

Tonight - she's not there to catch the Grain they leave behind

she's there to catch a man - & she's waiting for the right time

## **Ruth 3:7 (esv)**

***7 And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down.***

It's been a **long harvest** - & a long **celebration party**

& So **Boaz** lays down on the **Grain Pile**, & **drifts off** to **sleep**

& then **Cinderella** sneaks up - **uncovers** his feet - **lays** down at his **feet** - & probably **covers herself** somewhat with **his covering**

**Now** - **I know** this sounds **Pretty Wild** -

But just **be thinking** about this idea of "**Covering**" (& stay w/ me)

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**& so we read in Ruth 3:8-9(a) (esv)**

***8 At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet!***

***9 He said, "Who are you?" . . .***

**Boaz** is **shocked** (to say the least) - He **really** is an **upright man** & **Ruth's actions** could easily have be "**Misunderstood**"

And he **doesn't recognize** her - so he says "***Who are you ??***"

**& cont'g in Ruth 3:9(b) (esv)**

***9. . . And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings (covering) over your servant, for you are a redeemer."***

**Now** - this is **where** the **story** becomes "**Complicated**"

**Because** we have **BOTH** - A **Romance Suspense** Story **AND** a wonderful picture or **Our Own Redemption**

& **HERE** - we really **need to See** - a **Picture** of our **Own Redemption**

This term - “**Spread your Covering** (wings)” over a woman was **The Same** in that day - as **Putting A Ring** on her finger today

**In fact** - in **Christian Filipino Weddings** today there’s a **ceremony** in which a **covering** (veil) is placed on the **Husband’s shoulders**, & **over the head** of the **wife**

**Probably** from this **same tradition** - of a man **covering** his bride **as a sign** of his **Protection** & **Provision**

& now - **Watch this!** - In **Ezekiel 16:8**  
**The Lord** says to **Jerusalem**, & to **His people**

**Ezekiel 16:8 (esv)**

*8 . . . I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord God, and you became mine.*

**Remember** - the **story of Ruth** is really **OUR love story** with the Lord

**WE** are the **Outcast Foreigner**  
& **Jesus Christ** is our **Kinsman Redeemer**

Who came to **Redeem Us** when we had **no HOPE** -  
Who **put** His **covering** over **us** when **we came to His Feet**

**Boaz** is a picture of **Jesus Christ**

& **Ruth** (who’s a **picture of US**) **Goes** to Him, **Lays** at His **feet**,  
& **asks Him** to **cover her** with the **covenant** of **His love**

**Naomi’s** counsel may seem to be - “**Pushin it**”  
from a “**Safe Courtship**” perspective . . .

But from a “**Come to Jesus**” perspective - this is a **Perfect Picture**



**So again - in the 2nd half of Ruth 3:9 - Ruth says**

**. . . Spread your wings (covering) over your servant, for you are a redeemer**

**Ruth calls Boaz her "GOEL" - her Redeemer**

**According to Lev 25 - A Kinsman Redeemer could "Redeem"  
or "Buy Back" a family member who had been sold into Slavery**

**That is why Boaz is a picture of Jesus Christ here**

We were slaves to sin - & Jesus Christ has Redeemed us -  
Paid the Full Price - to Buy us back from our Master called Sin

**Jeremiah 50:34 (esv)**

***34 Their Redeemer is strong; the Lord of hosts is his name . . .***

**Psalms 119:154 (esv)**

***154 Plead my cause and redeem me; give me life according to your promise!***

**Job 19:25 (ESV)**

***25 For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.***

**This is a Wonderful Love Story between Ruth & Boaz**

**But the GREATEST Love Story . . .**

is PICTURED Here - with RUTH playing US  
& BOAZ playing Jesus Christ - Our Redeemer

& what the Book of Ruth beautifully teaches by Illustration -  
The Book of Hebrews teaches by pure Theological Truth

## **Hebrews 2:14 ff (NLT)**

***14 Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death.***

***15 Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.***

***16 . . .***

***17 Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people.***

**THIS is the Truth of the Kinsman Redeemer  
EXPLAINED in N.T. terms - which is SO COOL**

& If **YOU** have **RUN** to Jesus today, & **laid** at His **feet**,  
& **asked Him** to **Cover you** in His **Covenant Love**

Then **Jesus Christ** has **REDEEMED YOU** - He's **Bought** you **back** -  
& He has **freed you** - from the **Consequences** of **your Sin**

& He **DID IT** - **NOT** because he was **Obligated** to  
He **did it** out of His **UNCONDITIONAL LOVE** for you

**YOU** can be **Redeemed** today - You can **come under** the **Covering**  
of the **Covenant Protection** of the **Love** of **Jesus Christ**

& **that** is a **love** that **NOTHING** can **EVER separate** you from  
it's a love that's **Unchanging** - & **Eternal** . . .

**A Love** you **Don't Deserve**

But **a Love** you can **FREELY Receive** - **Today**

**IF You will Come to Him, Humbly at His Feet - & ask Him  
to Redeem YOU - Just like Ruth is Asking Boaz to do here**

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But **Remember** - The **Book of Ruth** is **BOTH**;  
a **Picture** of **OUR Redeemer** - & a Great **Love Story** in itself

**So - we cont in Ruth 3:10 (esv)**

***10 And he (Boaz) said, "May you be blessed by the Lord, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich.***

The "**First**" Kindness **Boaz** is referring to  
is the **covenant commitment Ruth** made to **Naomi**

But **now** - **Boaz** says **this kindness** is even **greater** than that  
because - ***you have not gone after young men,  
whether poor or rich.***

**This tells us Boaz** was **Older**, & probably **NOT** that **good looking**

& it **tells us Ruth** was **younger**, and was **probably very pretty**  
- **at least** in the **eyes of Boaz**, for sure

**Boaz** is saying ***"There are younger & better lookin guys out there  
& you could have any of them . . .***

***. . . but you're looking PAST all that  
& coming to me - to be your Redeemer***

& so **Boaz** says - ***May you be Blessed by the Lord***  
because you're **NOT** doing it **the World's way** - the "**Normal**" way

& **Boaz** is going to **make sure** that **Ruth is Blessed**  
**because** of her **Commitment** - & her **Faith**

## **Ruth 3:11 (esv)**

***11 And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman.***

This word **WORTHY** - is the Same **Hebrew word**  
used in **Proverbs 31** - for the "**Virtuous Woman**"

& **it's interesting** - in the **HEBREW Bible** - the **Book of Ruth**  
**Follows** right after the **Virtuous Woman** in **Prov 31**

So **Boaz** says to her - "**Fear Not**" - "**I will do all that you ask**"  
For **you are known** as a **Worthy** - or **Virtuous Woman**

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**What** an **amazing turn** of **e**vents!

**Maybe** a **few Months** ago - **Ruth arrived** in town  
as a **destitute widow** from a **foreign land**

with a **mother-in-law** that **couldn't** imagine  
that **This Cloud** could **ever have** a silver lining

Ruth **arrived** with **no way** to even **eat**  
**except** by **scavenging** the fields **for grain** left behind

**But because** of her **devotion** to the **People** - & **God** - of **Israel** -  
**she now** has a **reputation** as a "**Virtuous Woman**"

**No matter** what her **past** had been - in the **Moabite World**  
**Ruth** was now a **Virtuous Woman** - **Blessed** in the **Eyes of God**

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**BUT** - Like every good **Suspenseful Romance** - there must be a  
**HURDLE** to **Overcome** - & it's the **same here**

**Interestingly** - Boaz **already knows** - there's a **Legal Hurdle**  
he must **get over here** - Meaning he'd thought about it . . .

& he **mentions** it in the **next Vs**

### **Ruth 3:12-13 (esv)**

***12 And now it is true that I am a redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I.***

***13 Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, as the Lord lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning."***

Before **THIS** moment - **Ruth** must've been **floating** on **Cloud 9**

& **then**, like in a **perfectly scripted movie**  
**Reality** comes **CRASHING** in on her

**Boaz** says "***I'd LOVE to - BUT - There is a Redeemer closer than I***"  
& maybe **HE** would want to **Redeem you first**

You see - **Boaz HAD** to **follow the Law** - Just like **Jesus Christ**  
had to **follow God's Law** to **Redeem** us

& so **Boaz** had to **address** this **other** possible **Redeemer**  
to **make it** all "**Right**" before the Lord

& **we say** - **Oh No**, **Ruth** doesn't **want** to **marry** some **other guy!**  
She's **been here** with **Boaz**, **he's treated** her **so well**,  
**she's safe** under **his covering** . . .

& **we're** on **pins & needles** until **we find out**  
**HOW** Boaz is going to **handle** this . . . ***right?***

This **IS** great **Suspense** - & it makes for a **GREAT Love Story**

But the **Greater Point** is - that **Boaz** says to **Ruth** -  
*I will make **SURE** that you are Redeemed*

& **if there** is **some other way** that is **more right**  
then **we** will **do it** that **way**

**but** if there is **no other way** - then **I will Redeem you myself !!**

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This **reminds me** of **Jesus Christ** in **Gethsemane**  
the **night before** His **Crucifixion**

As **GOD**, He knew there was **no other way** to Redeem us -  
But as **MAN** Jesus **cried out** to His Father in

**Matthew 26:39 (esv)**

***39 . . . “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”***

**Jesus** is saying - if there is **ANY OTHER WAY** to Redeem  
those **that I Love** - then **Let it be done**

But **since** there is **NO OTHER WAY** - **I will Redeem them MYSELF**

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**Boaz** made a **similar commitment** to **Ruth** here -

& then **he said** (in V.13)- **stay here** (safe) till **Morning**

**Ruth 3:14 (esv)**

***14 So she lay at his feet until the morning, but arose before one could recognize another. And he said, “Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor.”***

**Boaz** didn't want **Ruth** to be wandering around all dressed up in the middle of the night - - That wouldn't be safe

& he didn't want anyone to get the wrong impression of why she was sleeping at the Threshing floor

& so they arose before sun-up to get **Ruth** heading back home

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& so now - Early in the morning we read in

### **Ruth 3:15-17 (esv)**

**15** *And he said, "Bring the garment you are wearing and hold it out." So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley and put it on her. Then she went into the city.*

**16** *And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "How did you fare, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her,*

**17** *saying, "These six measures of barley he gave to me, for he said to me, 'You must not go back empty-handed to your mother-in-law.' "*

Ahhh, the - "Win The Mother-In-Law - Win the Girl" approach . . . a very wise & effective approach by **Boaz**

**But** I believe **Naomi** was already "Sold" on **Boaz**

She was just hoping Ruth would Ask him to be her Redeemer

& **Ruth DID** ask him - & **Naomi KNEW** - Boaz would NOT REST until he had Redeemed Ruth

### **Ruth 3:18 (esv)**

**18** *She replied, "Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest but will settle the matter today."*

& we'll see next week - just how Boaz goes about that

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Ruth is a Great Love Story for sure - But an even Greater Picture of our RELATIONSHIP with our REDEEMER

Boaz was Ready to Redeem Ruth  
He was immediately ready to do all that it took

But he waited until she ASKED him

She came - humbly - at his feet - to ask him to be her Redeemer  
to ask him to cover her with his Steadfast, Unchanging Love

Boaz loved Ruth ALL ALONG - Yet he waited for her  
to acknowledge her need of Him

Jesus Christ has loved you all along - Yet He is waiting for you  
to acknowledge your need for Him

Can you see yourself coming to Him - Humbly - at His Feet  
& asking Him to Redeem you

Not because you're worthy - Not because you deserve anything

Simply because of His Unconditional, & Steadfast Love for you

Let's come to Him like THAT - Right now

Let's Pray