

Ruth 3-4

Good morning and welcome to Calvary Chapel, we're glad you came to worship with us this morning. Would you please turn in your Bible's to Ruth 3?

We're going to study both chapters 3 and 4 and finish Ruth, and next week we're going to stay in the OT and begin our study in 1 Samuel

In Ruth chapter 1 we learn that like herself, Ruth's MIL Naomi is a widow. They've come to Bethlehem poor, downtrodden and without much hope. That is until chapter 2. Last week we saw Ruth and her dream boat Boaz meet during the time of harvest.

For the three months of barley harvest there seems to have been no development in the Ruth-Boaz love story. Life simply went on. Day by day Ruth continued to glean with the servants of Boaz, and presumably, her daily needs are met, as chapter 2 describes.

So between chapter 2 and chapter 3, hours, and days, and weeks tick by. And Ruth is left to wait.

Waiting is hard isn't it? While we're waiting, and our dreams and ambitions have slowed or even stalled, it can appear that God disappears completely into the tapestry of everyday life. We can mistakenly think that He has forgotten us in our daily routines with its pressures, hassles, and uncertainties. But that is of course not the case. And the book of Ruth is a wonderful reminder of the fact that although we may not see Him, God is working on our behalf behind the scenes.

The title of this morning's message is **TRUSTING HIS LOVE**

Let's pray

Let's conclude this miraculous story

1 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?”

The Hebrew word for security in this verse is the same word for rest in Ruth 1:9, where Naomi hoped that her daughters-in-law would find rest and security in the home of a new husband. This Hebrew word speaks of what a home should be — a place of rest and security.

2 Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.”

If we're not careful, we can infer that Naomi is a meddling mother-in-law who was plotting with Ruth to go out and hunt down a reluctant Boaz for marriage. But this isn't the case at all. Naomi's suggestion to Ruth was rooted in the custom in ancient Israel — the meaning behind the Hebrew word *goel*.

If you recall from our previous studies, the *goel* —kinsman-redeemer — had a specifically defined role, from God in the family life of Israel.

The kinsman-redeemer was responsible to buy a fellow Israelite out of slavery **Leviticus 25:48 48 after he is sold he may be redeemed again. One of his brothers may redeem him;**

The *goel* was responsible to be the “avenger of blood”, to make sure the murderer of a family member answered to the crime **Numbers 35:19 The avenger of blood himself shall put the murderer to death; when he meets him, he shall put him to death.**

And the 2 requirements that apply to the Ruth...

Leviticus 25:25 If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold some of his possession, and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold.

He was responsible to carry on the family name by marrying a childless widow **Deuteronomy 25:5** "If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her."

All that to say what's unfolding here in Ruth 3 isn't some brazen scheme to try and trap a man. Rather Naomi recognizes that Boaz is the kinsman redeemer for Ruth.

So Naomi tells Ruth that Boaz is sleeping at the threshing floor. **SHOW PIC** The threshing floor was a large outdoor pavilion where the oxen would beat down the grain and process the wheat. The men would often sleep on sight to protect the crop from thieves and wild animals. **CLOSE PIC**

Naomi continues to instruct Ruth...3-4

3 Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. 4 Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do."

God's plan and a little female charm about to link arms... Here's Naomi's plan... Ruth needs to doll herself up – take a bubble bath – dab on some perfume, put on her best outfit and go down to the threshing floor. After Boaz eats dinner, and settles down to sleep, Ruth needs to slip up quietly, uncover his toes, and lie at his feet until he awakes.

Why uncover his toes? Because exposing his toes to the chilly harvest night air will insure that eventually his cold toes will wake him up, and he'll notice Ruth.

And before we move on, this strategy is also one we can abide by to rest in Jesus!

First, make sure we're washed. Our spirit has been washed in the blood of His sacrifice. We also need to cleanse our mind and thoughts with God's Word. **Psalm 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way?**

By taking heed according to Your word.

Second, we should make sure we're anointed by relying upon the HS. Ask the HS to fill us, and make us aware of God's presence and love.

Third, we too should dress for success – not go to Nordstrom and buy a fancy outfit, no dressing for success means putting on Christ. **Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.** We need to recall that we're a new creation in Christ.

Fourth and finally, we too need to spend time at Jesus' feet. How blessed we are when we spend time in His presence and do whatever it is He tells us to do.

5 And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do." Now let's pause for a moment and realize this wasn't an easy undertaking for Ruth to carry out these instructions!

Here is a servant insisting that the boss marry her.

On top of that Ruth is a foreigner, a Moabite making this request of an Israelite.

In a culture that was heavily male dominated, she's the one who's initiating the request, and notice too she's without a nickel to her name, and she's asking a rich person to take care of her the rest of her life.

The odds are stacked against Ruth! But she steps out in faith...

6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her. 7 And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down. So instead of bringing Boaz out in front of everyone, including his employees and asking him to perform the part of a goel (kinsman redeemer), Ruth was giving him the opportunity of rejecting or accepting the office of goel quietly.

8 Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet. 9 And he said, "Who are you?"

So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing,[fn] for you are a close relative."

You can picture the scene. **SHOW PIC** His toes now uncovered, the rushing cool air causes his toes to twitch. Boaz stirs a little, until the chill causes him to half wake up. He turns over to grab the covers only to find a woman lying at his feet.

It's dark, and his eyes, half filled with sleep, don't recognize Ruth. Remember, he's only seen Ruth as she's been working in the fields all day. Now she's all dressed up! She's looking good and smelling fine!

Boaz is shocked-who is this-and Ruth pops the question! **CLOSE PIC!** Can you imagine how Ruth's heart is pounding at this very moment?

The phrase, "take your maidservant under your wing" - was the equivalent of a marriage proposal. This is a bold move.

10 Then he said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning,

in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich.

Apparently, there was a considerable age difference between Ruth and Boaz.

And remember, Boaz is an OT type, or an OT picture of Jesus, and Ruth is an OT type of us, the church.

Jesus Christ is the Creator of all things. He, too, has it all. But what He desires is a Bride. And guess what we are! Anyone who will fall before His nail-pierced feet and say, “Cover me” He will take in **John 6:37 “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.**

11 And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman.

We don't really know how Ruth looked, but we do know that she was a woman of godly character. The Bible is very sparse in describing the physical appearances of its subject matters. However, the Bible is clear about the importance of inner beauty...

1 Peter 3:3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God

So all is going to plan. You can imagine the excitement, Ruth's wildest dream is about to come true...until Boaz drops a bombshell...

12 Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. Boaz will be happy to marry Ruth, but there's just one problem. Though Boaz is a near kinsman, he's

not the nearest kinsmen. There's a closer kin with first dibs at redeeming Elimelech's land, and marrying Ruth.

We can all relate to the wild swing in emotions, can't we? I bet all of us here have had times where we are almost squealing with excitement, only to moments later have our bubbles burst.

Boaz continues...

13 Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you—good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the LORD lives! Lie down until morning.”

Remember this story takes place in the wicked days of the Judges when **Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**

In an age of compromise, Boaz and Ruth stand out, because they were willing to do things God's way.

Hey, this was risky. Bo and Ruthie are in love. Marriage is the goal. But their dream wedding may never come to fruition if this nearer kinsman exercises his right, and claims the land, but more importantly, gets Ruth!

But Boaz trusts that God is in control, and if it's God's will that he and Ruth get married, Boaz knows God will see to it. Clearly Boaz knows the worst move he can make is to take a short-cut.

And notice too, the honorable precaution he takes in verse 14,

14 So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, “Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor.” Boaz did all he could to save Ruth's reputation from the rumor mill. He didn't want to give the town gossips anything to chew on. Ladies, a guy who

really loves you will do everything he can to protect your reputation - not put it in jeopardy.

15 Also he said, “Bring the shawl that is on you and hold it.” And when she held it, he measured six ephahs of barley, and laid it on her. Then she^[fn] went into the city. **SHOW PIC** Now he’s a farmer, there’s no chocolates or flower stands nearby, so he gives her the next best thing—a bunch of grain. How romantic! **CLOSE PIC** But remember, food was a luxury—this was another indicator of his affection for her.

16 When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, “Is that you, my daughter?”

Then she told her all that the man had done for her. 17 And she said, “These six ephahs of barley he gave me; for he said to me, ‘Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.’ Single men take notice. Boaz has won the girl – but he makes sure to get in the good graces of her mom!.

So again, picture the scene...Ruth tells Naomi of the nearer kin—Ruth’s entire future hangs in the balance in this very moment.

18 Then she said, “Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day.” Ruthie’s future - the love of her life - is in limbo, and she’s expected to sit still?

And this is the test of our faith isn’t it? After we’ve done all that we’ve been called to do by God, are we willing to sit still and trust God to do His work? How we need to learn to wait on God!

Chapter 4

1-4

1 Now Boaz went up to the gate (This is the city gate, where business transactions took place)

and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, “Come aside, friend,[fn] sit down here.” So he came aside and sat down. 2 And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, “Sit down here.” So they sat down. 3 Then he said to the close relative, “Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech. 4 And I thought to inform you, saying, ‘Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you[fn] will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you.’ ”

And he said, “I will redeem it.” When Boaz put it in terms of purely a land transaction, there was no hesitation on the nearer kinsman’s part. Of course, he said, “I will redeem it.”

5 Then Boaz said, “On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate[fn] the name of the dead through his inheritance.” In other words, Elimelech’s ground and his daughter in law Ruth go together. The property and the princess are a package deal.

Because Naomi was older and beyond the years of bearing children, the nearer kinsman was not expected to marry Naomi and raise up children to the family name of her deceased husband Elimelech. But Ruth was another matter — she was able to marry and bear children.

6 And the close relative said, “I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. (he’s already married and has kids) You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it.” Imagine if this guy did redeem the land and Ruth. He walks into his house “Honey, remember last night when you said it could

take two people to do your job..." I finally got you some help with the housework.

Respecting and obeying God's command that marriage is between one man and one woman, he refuses the role of the goel.

And that was exactly what Boaz had wanted to hear all along!

7 Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel. Now in Deuteronomy 25 it describes the ceremony conducted when a kinsman declined his responsibility. The one declining removed a sandal and the woman he declined to honor spat in his face. But in this case, it wasn't a lack of honor involved, so they just did the part of the ceremony involving the sandal.

8 Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself." So he took off his sandal. The passing of the sandal signed the contract. It made it official.

On the cross Jesus paid the redemption price. The question though is why did He do it? Jesus is not only a citizen of Earth – He's Lord of the universe – He owns billions of planets! I'm sure if the only thing Jesus had to gain by going to the cross was just another planet, He would've spared Himself the trouble.

But Jesus, like Boaz, was not as interested in a parcel of land as He was a particular lady. The ground and the girl go together.

Jesus redeemed the earth to marry the bride. And we are the bride of Christ the bible tells us!

9-11

9 And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and

all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi. 10 Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate.[fn] You are witnesses this day."

11 And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said, "We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. The residents of Bethlehem erupt in celebration and joy, and proclaim a blessing upon Ruth in the likeness of Rachel and Leah. If you remember Rachel and Leah had thirteen children between them and were essentially the mothers of the whole nation of Israel. This was a big blessing to put on Ruth.

12 May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this young woman." The reference to Perez is also significant. If you look at Genesis 38, and follow the genealogy in 1 Chronicles, we learn Perez was the ancestor of the Bethlehemites.

13-15

13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. 14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! 15 And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him."

Things were looking very bleak when we saw Naomi make her return to Bethlehem in chapter 1. **Ruth 1:19 Now the two of them**

went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?"

20 But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. 21 I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?" Naomi had lost her husband and her 2 sons!

Her circumstances have changed so drastically and dramatically in ways that only God could orchestrate.

16-17

16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him. 17 Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

18 Now this is the genealogy of Perez: Perez begot Hezron; 19 Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab; 20 Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon; 21 Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed; 22 Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David. This is a beautiful example of why genealogies matter in the Bible.

Matthew 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

2 Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. 3 Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. 4 Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon

begot Salmon. 5 Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, 6 and Jesse begot David the king.

David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife^[fn] of Uriah. 7 Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa.^[fn] 8 Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. 9 Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. 10 Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon,^[fn] and Amon begot Josiah. 11 Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. 13 Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. 14 Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. 15 Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. 16 And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. These genealogies prove the accuracies of the scriptures!

If you ever sat down and read Ruth in 1 setting, for the first time, you would be struck by the drama and the uncertainties that continue to unfold as the story goes on. The drama of Ruth is hardly ever straightforward or predictable. If you never read Ruth you don't know how the story plays out until we see the final verses.

But God was never in doubt as to what He was doing. He was silently planning, in love, for Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz, and for the development of His purposes in the godly line of David, which would one day come to its complete fulfillment in the Lord Jesus Christ.

There was never a shadow of a doubt that God's purposes would one day be play out exactly as God designed. But for each of these individuals, caught up in the problems and uncertainties of their lives, there was no way they could see that perspective.

We can relate can't we??

Sometimes we think because things aren't working out the way we thought, that God has lost interest in us, or that He has gone off duty and is no longer working all things together for our good.

In the light of the Book of Ruth and so many other Scriptures it's almost blasphemous to think of God this way, and yet, how often we find ourselves doing just that.

The book of Ruth is a reminder to every one of us to rely on the character of God, as revealed in his Word, and not to depend on our feelings or even our circumstances. **2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.**

There's no guarantee that as followers of Christ that our walks with God will be easy, breezy and bright, or that our obedience to the Lord will automatically shield us from dangers or difficulties. Sometimes God's people do feel their name has become "Mara," just as Naomi did.

Isaiah 50:10 Who among you fears the LORD?

Who obeys the voice of His Servant?

Who walks in darkness

And has no light?

Let him trust in the name of the LORD

And rely upon his God.

1 John 4 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.