

Ruth 3

Announcements: (be very brief with these...)

- Expounding the Word and Revelation teaching has started... QR to channel (still tweaking)
 - Ask for a team of video editors (donate time? Email "info" @ ...)
- Doctrinal stances on the website (Complementarianism and **NAR**)
 - **Share heart behind it...**
 - Worship theology coming next... (don't go look now :)

Please open to **Ruth Chapter 3** (Need a Bible? ...)

- Last time: **Finding Favor**: Barley harvest: "**happens**" to be in Boaz' field!
- This time: **Strangest Marriage Proposal** in the Bible...
 - (looking for a way to propose? Ha! :)
 - **Christian Mingle**: "Moabite widow seeks a Godly Man for walks through the grain fields"

Message Title: "Midnight Matrimony"

- **A Risky Engagement** (verses 1-5)
- **A Gracious Response** (verses 6-13)
- **A Provision of Hope** (verses 14-18)

Some interesting things to point out along the way... But one **theme I notice** upfront:

- All characters are looking out for the interests above themselves...
 - **Naomi for Ruth's future** safety and posterity...
 - **Boaz to bless Ruth** according to Torah...
 - Ruth and Boaz to **care for Naomi**...

A Risky Engagement (verses 1-5)

V. 1 - **Then** Naomi... said to [Ruth] "My daughter..."

- **Then...** Three days? Three months? **Likely a few weeks** at the end of the Barley Harvest...
- Naomi **starts matchmaking!** Must be feeling better? No more moping around in sweatpants...
Healing = planning.
- It's time to get moving on this Boaz situation. **Someone, make a move!**

V. 1 - "Shall I not **seek security (rest)** for you, that it may be well with you?"

- **Rest (Manoah)** (maw-no'-akh) = "a settled state or condition of rest, a place of security/safety"
 - Surely in the **context of a widow finding a husband**... (safety and provision)
 - Mentioned before: **Rest** is **a good descriptor of OG design** (Eph 5: love and respect)
- **Rest** is **important theologically**
 - (**opposite**: Genesis 6:8 - Dove found no REST for her foot")
 - God's original plan... **Shabbat/Promised Land** pointed/hinted at it...
 - And, **Christ, He is our rest** and Hebrews 4 = The Greater than Joshua brings true rest!

V. 2 - "**Boaz**... is he not **our relative**?"

- **Relative (Moda'ath)** isn't the word for the **official redeemer**, but implies he could be the one!

V. 2 - “[Boaz], he is **winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.**”

- Quick background on all this:
- The **threshing floor (Goren)** means the “place of trampling.” **open hill top**
 - Grains were beaten with tools or trampled by animals, then **thrown into the wind.**
- **Winnowing (Zara)** = (scatter, disperse, spread) = **Wheat vs chaff (Psalm 1)**
 - Grain was **placed on heaps** then stored or sold...
- Outside of famine, a **time of joy and celebration.** **Hard work paying off!**

Naomi, **Ruth's life coach** has some advice...

V. 3 - “**Wash** yourself and **anoint** yourself, put on your **best garment**”

- Hey, that's pretty good advice if you're about to get engaged or married...
 - Take a shower... put on deodorant... and wear some nice clothes...
- **Wash** = **ceremonial preparation (mikvah)**
- **Anointing (perfumed oils)** = helps w body odor. **joy, celebration, ceremony**
- Important note: often **after a period of grieving (as a widow)**
- 2 Samuel 14:2 - “Joab sent to Tekoa and brought from there a wise woman. He told her, ‘Pretend to be in mourning and put on garments for mourning. Don't anoint yourself with oil. Instead, act like a woman who has been mourning for the dead for some time.’”
- **Conversely...**
- 2 Samuel 12:20 - “Then David got up from the ground. After he had washed, put on lotions [oils] and changed his clothes, he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. Then he went to his own house, and at his request they served him food, and he ate.”
 - There's “a time to mourn, and a time to dance...” (Ecc. 3:4)
- To **wash, anoint, change clothes** - was often seen as the **mourning season has officially ended.** Could this be true of Ruth?
 - Maybe that's why Boaz did not approach her yet...

V. 3 - “Go down **to the threshing floor**”

- **Risky.** It's night time. Could be **misinterpreted (harlotry (harvest gods))**
- Hosea 9:1 - “Do not rejoice, O Israel, with joy like other peoples, For you have played the harlot against your God. You have made love for hire on every threshing floor. The threshing floor and the winepress shall not feed them...”
- **Risky.** Boaz could be offended. You're a **Moabitiss.** Ruth could be rejected...
- Have not been given a spirit of fear... **Analysis paralysis.**
 - Sometimes gotta **Full Shalach!**

Naomi has **more match making** advice...

V. 3 - “Do not make yourself known to the man **until he has finished eating and drinking.**”

- **Let the man eat first... ha!** gentle as a dove and shrewd as a serpent.
- **You know, timing matters?** stressed with work, or needs a little buffer time...

V. 4 - “It shall be, when he lies down, that you shall **notice the place where he lies**”

- At the end of the work day/dinner, workers are sleeping on the threshing floor.

V. 4 - “You shall go in, **uncover his feet** (and tickle his toes, ha!) and lie down”

- **Our culture is so far removed** from this... A **Facebook Friend Request!**

- (careful not **“project”** onto this passage’s meaning)
- Some see this as a **sensual moment and provocative gesture** (possible)
- **Majority** see it as an **ancient practice showing humility/submission** (lean)
- **Common practice:** **Mary of Bethany** (Luke 10: learning, John 12: anointing)

Let’s **not lose sight of the bigger picture** in all these little details.

- She is coming to **claim her right to be redeemed**... (feet = Deut 25)
- Naomi wisely advises for Ruth **not to demand**, but to **humbly request**
- This is **a great reminder for us**. **we come boldly to his throne, but also humbly**

...she will **uncover his feet** - **Cold air will get to those little piggies to wake him up!**

V. 4 - **“And he will tell you what you should do.”**

- **You won’t know if you don’t go. You could be rejected**, remember, he is a:
- **Gibbor Chayil = mighty/brave/noble + strength/valor/excellence/virtuous”** (Ruth 2:1)
- You’re **placing your life and faith in a good man**...
 - **The picture for us is even greater!**

V. 5 - [Ruth] said to her, **“All that you say... I will do.”**

- Ruth is **“honoring”** (Ex 20) to Naomi every step of the way.

stage is set, **let’s see how Boaz will respond**. Will he accept/reject the request?

A Gracious Response (verses 6-13)

V. 6 - She **did according to all** that her mother-in-law instructed her...

- **Ruth fully went for it. Takes courage, takes faith** (I pray you all would!)

V. 7 - After Boaz had finished eating and drinking, and his **heart was cheerful**

- This can **sound worse than it is** on the surface!
 - (no estoy borracho solo intoxicado por ti)
 - **Cheerful (yatab) = “happy, merry, well, in good spirits, rejoicing, going well, pleased”**
 - (not **“Shakar” = drunken**) a **sense of well being** after an abundance of crops.

Being merry...

V. 7 - He went to lie down **at the end of the heap of grain**

- During harvest, workers would **often sleep at the threshing floor** (thieves/animals)
 - **1 Samuel 23:1 - “Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah, and they are plundering the threshing floors.”**
 - **Judges 6:11 - “Gideon threshing wheat in a winepress” ...fear of Midianites...**
- So Boaz is sleeping there as **an act of protection** (**new puppy ha!** | **shepherd with his sheep**)

V. 7 - She came softly (quietly / **ninja like**), **uncovered his feet, and lay down**.

V. 8 - Now it happened **at midnight that the man was startled**, and turned (over)

- Given there **may have been thieves in the area**, **probably ready to fight!**

- **Midnight vs Darkness** = *Exodus 12* and the *turning point in Esther*
- **Charad** = *trembling, quaking* - we can all agree that would be terrifying for a moment... (*Torah obedience?*)

V. 8 - [And behold, there was] **a woman was lying at his feet.**

- **Unexpected!** Reminds me of *Genesis 29:25* - "**Behold, it was Leah!**" - oops!

V. 9 - And he said, "**Who are you?**"

- **Makes sense** - it was *dark in the middle of the night*... (like Naomi Q later?)

V. 9 - So she answered, "I am **Ruth, your maidservant**"

- **Surprise, it's me Ruthy!**
- But not "**the Moabitiss**" - instead, "**your maidservant.**" -
 - **one of you!** *Eligible for marriage!*

Also, **humbly as a servant...**

V. 9 - "Take your maidservant **under your wing** (the corner of your garment)"

- She's *calling back* to the prayer Boaz already prayed over her...
- *Ruth 2:12* - "[May] the LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, **under whose wings you have come to take refuge!**"
- **Remember?** *Kanafayim* = "wings, edges or corners of a garment"
 - Calling Boaz to **Torah obedience**...
- **Sometimes used in covenant marriage type imagery...**
- *Ezekiel 16:8* - "**I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your naked body. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign Lord, and you became mine.**"
 - (*Jerusalem as the adulterous wife*)
- So for **little baby Ruth** - this is in fact **a marriage proposal**. **popping the Q!**
 - **Boaz was dragging his feet... For good reason as we'll see...**
- **Unorthodox for sure:** *a young female, a moabite widow, a slave in the fields*

And here's the **basis and reasoning...**

V. 9 - "For you are **a close relative** (family redeemer)"

- **Ga'al (verb)** = "to act as or do the part of a **kinsman redeemer (goel (noun))**" (many times in these verses)
- She's calling him to **Torah obedience** in two realms: **Property/Posterity**
- **Property:**
 - *Leviticus 25:25* - "If a fellow countryman of yours becomes so poor [like Naomi] he has to sell part of his property, then **his nearest kinsman is to come and buy back** what his relative has sold." Interestingly... *a sneak peak into next week...*
 - *Ruth 4:3* - "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, **sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech.**" (Naomi had to sell at some point due to poverty)
- **Posterity:** (**Leverite (Levir) Marriage**) (future descendants)
 - *Deut 25:5-6* - "If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry

her and **fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her**. The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel.”
(there’s more to this next week...)

Ruth has **acted in faith** and **made her petition**... How will Boaz respond...?

V. 10 - Then he said, **“Blessed are you of the Lord, my daughter!”**

- **A gracious response!** Boaz seems pleased...
- **My daughter** = still **respectful and endearing**.
- In effect it’s **a prayer for God’s blessing**. No shame, Not a lecture, Not crude
- I am so thankful **we can approach our Lord** and He responds the same.
 - **Loving father...**

V. 10 - **“For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning”**

- **Kindness (chesed)** = “kindness/goodness/mercy (Unfailing Covenant Love)”
- Ruth’s **first covenant kindness** was **forsaking Moab to cling to Naomi**.
- Ruth’s **second covenant kindness** **forsaking all others to cling to Boaz**.

V. 10 - **“In that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich.”**

- This verse gives us an indication that **Boaz was much older**. Maybe **another reason he did not initiate a proposal** with her.
 - She could have had many other husbands **“in their prime”**
- **Rich or poor** - wasn’t **husband hunting** for “economic” gain, as some might.
- Ruth was **not** just operating out of “passion” or “looking out for herself.”

V. 11 - **“And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request”**

- **No need to fear or be anxious... You wanna get hitched? I’m in!**

V. 11 - **“all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman”**

- **(Eshet Chayil) = Prov 31**
- I would be **honored to have you as my wife!**
- **Obedience to God’s commandments** - **people take notice...**

But, there’s a **potential snag**: **a bone in the mix.. a pebble in the shoe... a burr in the saddle... a skunk in the garden... A fly in the ointment (Ecc. 10)...**

- **Another guy in the picture...**

V. 12 - **“It’s true I am a redeemer (Goel); however, there is a (Goel) closer than I”**

- Though Boaz is a kinsman, **he’s not the nearest kinsman**. **We don’t know who this other man is, but he has first dibs** according to Torah...
 - (unless he **waves his right** of priority - **Deut 25**)
- this is the **BIGGEST REASON** Boaz never initiated with Ruth. **Gibbor Chayil**

V. 13 - **“If he will perform the duty of (Goel); let him do it, But if not, then I will...”**

- Gotta love Boaz here. He remains **obedient to God’s Word**, and **leaves it in God’s hands**.
 - **Not my will, but they will be done.**

- **No striving... no scheming.... no shortcuts...**
- **Hudson Taylor (China mission):** "God's work done God's way will never lack God's supply."
- **Boaz is a picture of Our Lord Christ in this...**
- **Galatians 4:4-5** - "When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, **born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.**" (Jesus did not bypass the Law; He fulfilled it!)

V. 13 - "As the Lord (YHWH) lives!"

- Boaz is **deeply committed** to the **Word and Ways of God**, so much so he **calls down an oath** upon Himself.
- Not to fulfill would be to use **His name in vain (Ex. 20)**. **Serious business...**

Boaz is fully committed to help Ruth one way or another...

V. 13 - Lie down until morning..."

- **he did not seek to take advantage** of her... (*judges* - "each man did...")
- Nor did he **send her away into the dark of the night** to be taken... (*judges*)
- **Integral, protective, honoring, caring, loving... (not Ruthless after all :)**

A Provision of Hope (verses 14-18)

V. 14 - So she lay at his feet until morning

- The text is making it clear **they spent the evening with honor**.
 - **(not recommended for dating)**

V. 14 - She arose before one could recognize another (while it was still dark out).

V. 14 - Boaz, "Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor."

- **protect one another** from **false accusations/gossip**. **No appearance of evil...**

V. 15 - "Bring the shawl that is on you and hold it."

V. 15 - He measured six (measures) of barley, and laid it on her (back).

- Boaz's **grace is abundant and woven** throughout the whole book...
- **translational discrepancy** here. **NKJV uses Ephah 180-300 lbs (Buff!)**
- other translations use **"measure"** (seah = **one third of an ephah**) **60-90 lbs**
- **Rabbis... give meaning to the "six"** (descendants) but not worth going into...
- All that aside, this is meant to be seen as **extravagant!**
- clear from **verse 17** this is actually **a gift for Naomi - Bride price maybe!?**
 - A **barley sack** was ancient **Israel's engagement ring** :)
 - Boaz has much wisdom **getting in good with the mother-in-law** :)
 - **take notes, bros!**

V.15 - Then she/he went into the city. (he vs she = discrepancy?)

- The **Threshing floor scene has ended**.
- Boaz and Ruth went their separate ways, for now...

Setting change: Ruth is now back with Naomi...

V. 16 - Naomi said, "Is that you, my daughter?"

- Naomi's been at home biting her fingernails pacing around the house!
- **Is that you = How did it go? Give me the scoop! (idiomatic/euphemistic)**
- Genesis 3:9 - "The Lord God called to Adam and said to him, 'Where are you?'"

V. 16 - Then [Ruth] told her **all that the man had done** for her.

- I picture her being elated, ecstatic!
- Like a surfer that just got spit out of a barrel full of stoke :)

V. 17 - "These six ephahs of barley... he said, **Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.**"

- Now Naomi is super stoked! God's grace is upon them!
- John 1:16 - "Indeed, we have all received grace upon grace from his fullness"

V. 18 - "**Sit still**, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out..."

- **A good word here!** In the midst of faith, we must **trust God and His timing.**
- Sit still (yasab) (yaw-shav) = "sit, be still, wait, abide, remain... settled patient dwelling"
- For some people the hardest part is not the daring faith, but the **patient waiting (insta culture)**
- That's what Ruth has to do now "be still and know that I am God" (46:10)
- **Wiersbe:** the idea of being still means "take your hands off!" - Let me be God!
- When we **"help God"** we make it worse...
 - Gal 3:3 - Begun in the Spirit; perfecting in the flesh?

V. 18 - "**the man will not rest until he has concluded (settled) the matter** this day."

- **Naomi has full confidence** in Boaz' commitment.
- **Paradoxical closing/ending:** Naomi seeks Ruth's rest, but **Boaz will not rest** till she gets it.
- Concluded/Settled (kalah) = "to complete, finish, bring a matter to an end"
 - The redeemer will pull through!

All of this points to... **our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!**

- He also **did not rest until completing his mission**
- **"It is finished!" (tetelestai);** Root: **Teleo** = to bring to a close; to execute; to pay in full)
- And **Christ is still working on our behalf**, preparing a place for us...
- Phil 1:6 - "I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion [epiteleo] until the day of Christ Jesus." super complete

Closing:

Christ has already completed the work to give us:

- Rest (Manoah) (maw-no'-akh) = "a settled state or condition of rest, a place of security/safety"
- He is **still working to bring us home** to the **completed glory of eternal rest**
 - Have you tasted and seen?

God is still calling His Gentile bride...

- And we look forward to the **marriage supper for the Lamb!**
- **Christ is the true Gibbor Chayil.** We can place our full trust in Him...

PRAY

