

Sermon Series | Ruth – The God Who Redeems

Sunday, September 27, 2026 | The Man Will Not Rest Until Its Settled

Ruth Chapter 3

The Man is a Redeemer

“Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you? Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you were? See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.” (Ruth 3:1–2, ESV)

This is the second time Naomi has sought “rest” for Ruth. Yes, a marriage to Boaz would benefit Naomi, but we see here that even in her devastating circumstances, Naomi is looking out for her daughter-in-law.

“Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. 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.” (Ruth 3:3–4, ESV)

I am not thrilled with Naomi’s plan! It puts Ruth in a very vulnerable situation, and it exposes both Ruth and Naomi to temptation. But Naomi didn’t ask me for my opinion on her plan and I’m pretty sure she wouldn’t have cared what I thought.

“And she replied, “All that you say I will do.” So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her. 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.” (Ruth 3:5–7, ESV)

Boaz has been celebrating in the barn with his men. He’s tired, he’s full, and he’s gone to sleep at the end of his pile of grain, probably to guard it. Why did Ruth uncover his feet? Well, for one thing, when your feet are cold at night, it tends to wake you up. Also, it’s a sign that Ruth is imploring Boaz for help. She doesn’t lay down next to him, she lays down at his feet.

“At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! He said, “Who are you?” And she answered, “I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer.” (Ruth 3:8–9, ESV)

This sounds like Ezekiel: “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.” (Ezekiel 16:8, ESV) This is God’s description of His “marriage” to the people of Israel. Ruth is essentially saying, “Marry Me!”

But under Mosaic Law, a woman could petition a Kinsman Redeemer. “And if the man does not wish to take his brother’s wife, then his brother’s wife shall go up to the gate to the elders and say,

‘My husband’s brother refuses to perpetuate his brother’s name in Israel; he will not perform the duty of a husband’s brother to me.’” (Deuteronomy 25:7, ESV)

The Man Gives His Word: “I Will Redeem You”

“And he 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.” (Ruth 3:10, ESV)

Ruth’s “first” kindness was to Naomi. This second kindness is to Naomi *and* Boaz. She hasn’t gone after younger men, but has requested help from a kinsman-redeemer who can redeem not only her, but Naomi as well. So, Ruth isn’t thinking only of herself, but she is still looking out for Naomi with this marriage proposal.

“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. And now it is true that I am a redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I.” (Ruth 3:11–12, ESV)

“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.” 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.”” (Ruth 3:13–14, ESV)

“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.” (Ruth 3:15, ESV)

Boaz blesses Ruth and Naomi once again! Blessings are overflowing to these two widows because they have sought refuge under the wings of the Lord.

The Man Will Not Rest Until it is Settled

“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, 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.’ ” (Ruth 3:16–17, ESV)

Remember, Naomi said I went out full but I came back “empty.” It’s the kind of phrase that someone might say more than once when they were telling the story of their sorrows, and maybe all of Bethlehem have heard her say this. And now, Boaz says, “no more emptiness for Naomi.”

“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.”” (Ruth 3:18, ESV)

Boaz is the kind of man that gets things settled. He’s not going to leave Ruth the woman he wants to redeem and marry without protection and provision! No! He’s going to settle the matter today! We’re going to find out what happens with Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi next week and see the conclusion of this love story!

Boaz is going to get things settled because he is a kinsman-redeemer. But he is only a shadow of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, who also “will not rest until the matter is settled.” He did not be turned aside from His purpose, did not forget His people, and will not stop until the work of redemption is settled.

Listen to how He was determined to “settle” the matter of our Redemption:

“but he said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.”” (Luke 4:43, ESV)

When Peter told Him that He would never go to the cross, Jesus said, Mark 8:33 “Get behind me, Satan!”

“The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”” (Luke 9:22, ESV)

“When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9:51, ESV)

“I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished!” (Luke 12:50, ESV)

“Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.” (Luke 13:33, ESV)

“For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors.’ For what is written about me has its fulfillment.” (Luke 22:37, ESV) John 4:34 “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.”

“And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.” (John 10:16, ESV)

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“When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” (John 19:30, ESV)

“And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,” (Hebrews 10:11–12, ESV)

“so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.” (Hebrews 9:28, ESV)

“Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.” (1 Corinthians 15:24–26, ESV)

“waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,”
(Titus 2:13, ESV)

Some Questions for us:

Where do we need to stop carrying the fear that Jesus might leave something unfinished, and trust again that our Redeemer will faithfully complete what He has begun?

If Jesus was so determined to accomplish redemption that He set His face toward the cross and would not be turned aside, do you see that He wants to settle things with you? He wants to settle your forgiveness, and your relationship with God. He wants to settle you in the household of God and give you rest. Will you come to Him and receive the redemption He has secured?

In the places in our lives that still feel empty, or painfully unsettled, can we rest in the promise that Jesus will “never leave us or forsake us?” He has not forgotten us and He will one day set all things right. The man will not leave the matter unsettled!