



Faithful The Story of Ruth

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“Desperate Times Call for Desperate Measures: When God Shows Up at the Threshing Floor”

Ruth 3:1-18

October 6, 2019

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Theme: Spurred on by Naomi’s direction, Ruth takes initiative to secure a home and husband for herself and the security this will bring for Naomi. She approaches Boaz when he is sleeping on the threshing floor and requests that he fulfill the role of guardian-redeemer. Boaz sees this request as an even greater example of Ruth’s *hesed* and agrees to move ahead and also sends food home with Ruth for Naomi. Through the faithful actions of the three main characters, God is actively providing for the two women.

Outline:

1. Naomi Takes the Lead: Finding Ruth a Home (3:1-6)
 - a. Naomi’s Concern for Ruth (v. 1)
 - b. The Plan: A Shotgun Wedding? (vv. 2-4)
 - c. Ruth Moves Ahead (vv. 5-6)

2. Ruth Grabs the Baton: A Risky Request (3:7-9)
 - a. Ruth “uncovered his feet” (v. 7)
 - b. Boaz’s surprise (v. 8)
 - c. Ruth: “Spread the corner of your garment over me” (v. 9)

3. Boaz Responds to Ruth’s *Hesed* (3:10-15)
 - a. Ruth’s greater *hesed* (v. 10)
 - b. Ruth’s “noble character” (v. 11)
 - c. Another “guardian-redeemer”? (v. 12)
 - d. Boaz commits to act on Ruth and Naomi’s behalf (vv. 13-15)

4. Back at Home: Provision is Happening (3:16-18)
 - a. More food: No longer empty! (v. 16-17; cf. 1:21)
 - b. Cliff-hanger: “the man will not rest until the matter is settled today” (v. 18)

Take-Away: In this story, God proves trustworthy to care for those who are most vulnerable—the foreigner and the widow (à la Deuteronomy). Naomi and Ruth, in their desperate situation, are pressed toward a potentially risky plan to request Boaz to be their guardian-redeemer. God honors their actions—actions that illustrate above-and-beyond loyalty and kindness. The call to us is to look for divine faithfulness in unlikely places and to trust God, as well as to commit ourselves toward living out *hesed* even when it’s difficult or risky.

Next Cove:

Date: October 13, 2019

The *Hesed* of Naomi, Ruth, Boaz, and Yahweh: How Naomi Regained a Family Line