



Lesson 3 – May 12, 2020

Review

Who is Ruth and why do we refer to her as an Ezer-Warrior?

Why is Ruth gleaning in the fields of Boaz? What is gleaning?

What is a kinsman-redeemer?

Ruth 3:1-5

This seems very strange to us. Why would Naomi give her these instructions? Why is her appearance important? What kind of female tactics is Naomi instructing Ruth to use in order to attract Boaz?

Naomi Presents a Plan for Ruth

First, Boaz has to be willing to become the kinsman-redeemer. And then, Boaz has to be willing to accept a foreign woman.

So, what is Naomi's plan for Ruth to try to get Boaz to become their kinsman-redeemer?

- First, she explains to Ruth who Boaz is and what is the potential for a relationship with him.

- Naomi points out that this timing is good because Boaz would be winnowing barley on his threshing floor that evening. Why approach him there and at night?

The threshing floor was usually a raised platform outside the village and often on a hill where it could catch the evening breeze. The men often worked in the evening when the breeze was up, when it could separate the grain from the chaff. Then they would sleep at the threshing floor to protect the harvest.

One reason Naomi directed Ruth to approach Boaz there at night was to avoid any embarrassing situations for him.

- Then Naomi tells Ruth to prepare herself according to the customary system of beautification during that time.

Naomi is setting forth to Ruth cultural and societal customs and traditions about which Ruth was completely ignorant. Therefore, it was necessary for Ruth to trust completely in her mother-in-law.

- Naomi instructs Ruth to go down quietly and remain unnoticed until Boaz has eaten and then note where he lies down to sleep.
- Then, after he is asleep, to go lie at his feet and uncover his feet and wait for Boaz to tell her what to do.

Think about this scenario for a moment. Naomi is suggesting that Ruth, a foreigner, and a Moabite, wait in hiding at night on the property of Boaz so after he finally lies down and falls asleep, she can go to him, uncover his feet, lie down and then wait to see what Boaz says. It is amazing that Ruth then agrees to do what Naomi has told her.

Why was Ruth willing to do this risky thing? Why was she so willing to obey Naomi?

Ruth's Request

What did Naomi have in mind when she told Ruth to say to Boaz, "Spread the corner of your garment over me. . ."? (Ruth 3:9) Was this some sort of seductive suggestion?

Ruth came to Boaz's feet. She had first come into his land, then to his fields, now she was at his feet.

We come into the Lord's "land" seeking refuge.

We come into his "fields" seeking supply.

We finally fall down at his feet, seeking relationship and all that he has for us.

Boaz's Response

In his response, Boaz reveals the purity of his own motivations.

In the responses of Boaz to Ruth, we see how the Lord responds to us when we seek to have a deeper fellowship with Him:

- He accepts us.
- He assures us.
- He meets our needs in a generous way.

Philippians 1:6: Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.