

Ruth 3:1-18 “Proposal”

Pastor Jason did a masterful job as always finishing up ch.2 last time.

A) Great insight on how Boaz sought to **bleed Ruth**

Aa) He also gave some **very practical insights on the subject of Dating** – found there in Ch. 2 –

B) I want to **add to that right now** before we jump into our theme- something that stood out to me as I was reading our text

1) Notice what Boaz is **doing here at the end** – Sends Ruth home with a gift for Naomi

C) **Guys take note** – you start to get a little serious about a girl – **out to dinner** – ready to order dessert – which is always good – **don’t be chincy**

1) Ask her – hey what is your moms favorite dessert – order one for her as well

D) **Send it home with her!** – Huge score points with Mama – always a good thing

Quick –Recap – Ch1 Decisions

A) Elimelech – Moab= Death

B) Naomi – Prodigal comes home – Received

1) Ruth – foreigner – Follow God –

Ch.2:1-3 Little interlude – Providence

A) Introduced to Boaz by the Narrator told he is a relative, a kinsman- wondering – what part play

Aa) **See Ruth taking initiative** – Need to do something – Action not sitting – find a field, glean in -

B) **See the Providence of God – V.3 Just so happened** – surprise – in reality we have seen God’s hand is all over this.

C) **As I said – Boaz shows an interest – sends Ruth home – very blessed – extra food!**

1) Ch.2:4-23 Blessings

D) **Ch.3 Proposal** – Unusual one at that

Ch.3 opens the next morning! – it has now been 2 months since their arrival in Bethlehem –

A) Somewhere along the line – Naomi has discovered – maybe it was in conversation with the other ladies – **Boaz is a Relative – a kinsman**

B) Naomi finds herself thinking about Ruth’s future and she comes up with plan

1) Recall Naomi was bitter and depressed when she arrived –

C) Great cure for depression – being down – get your eyes off of yourself and on to the needs of someone else.

BACKGROUND: There were two OT practices that play an important part in this story.

A) The first was **the Leverite law** – Hebrew word Brother in law

B) This is what the Leverite law declared – Duet. 25
If a man died not leaving and Heir

1) It was up to **his brother to marry his widow** and produce an heir to carry on the family name.
Younger Bro was required

C) It was God's way of provision to carry on the family name and to preserve the nation of Israel

So that was the law of the Leverite – which didn't apply in the case of Ruth because there was no younger brother.

A) Ruth was married to Mahlon – he died and that was it! –

Aa) Naomi told Ruth go back to your pp find a husband – I am too old – too long to wait

B) Ruth chose to go back with Naomi

C) So the Leverite law didn't really apply to Ruth – because there was no Brother.

1) She could Marry whoever she wants – **V.10 Boaz**
You are being Kind – you could have went after an young man -

There was a 2nd law or Practice that had to do with a Relative – Kinsman redeemer.

A) If He was willing – if He was able – afford it – and if He was the nearest kinsman.

B) He could redeem or buy back – property that was lost – **to keep it in the family** – and preserve the family name by marrying the widow.

C) But He was under no obligation – WILLING ?

Naomi realizes Boaz is a Kinsman – He is sure being nice to Ruth – let's see if He is interested in being the Kinsman Redeemer – **NAOMI'S PLAN! V.1-4**

A) Boaz is in the threshing floor tonight -

Aa) **Community threshing floor** – share – take turns – calculated – this is Boaz's night

B) Hillside – wind from the ocean – Separate wheat and the Chaff –

C) Plan: Wash yourself – put on some perfume and your best outfit – head down there!

D) Now if you are a young lady interested in getting the attention of a young man – good advice here –

Look presentable!

Take a bath – little perfume – nice clothes – look pretty – a little make up is ok

A) For years that was debate in the church – ok to wear make up – **Magee – solved problem**

B) Barn needs painting paint it ! – Him not me

C) Look pretty girls – Important

Not fair guys can get away with a lot – Cool – look like you have bed head!

A) Some guys are masterful at it – always looking like they just woke up – **SOME THAT ACTUALLY IS THE CASE**

B) Wrinkled shirts – ok {look that says I need someone to help me – {**Need a mom – wife 😊**

Bb) Doesn't work for the girls though – Shower – nice clothes – a little perfume goes a long way!

C) So Naomi says make yourself presentable and get down to the threshing floor –

1) **Watch as Boaz works** – stay out of sight until he has finished eating and drinking – **watch where he lies down to sleep**

D) Quietly sneak up to him and uncover his feet and **place the blanket over yourself** –

1) When he wakes up He will understand and Know what to do!

V.5 Ruth replies – **all you have said I will do!**

WHAT kind of plan is this?

A) This sounds crazy we need to quickly remove this from 20th century mindset.

B) **What I mean by this** – there is nothing sensual or seductive in what is being proposed here at all.

1) Ruth is not heading down there – with Lingerie under her clothes looking for a hookup with Boaz

C) That is not the picture!

The dress of that day was modest – covered a lot!

A) Worth noting it is one thing for a woman to make herself **look attractive** and it is another thing to make herself **look seductive**.

B) Ladies know the difference – and so do men –

1) Men can tell the difference – someone is presentable and attractive

2) vs someone who is looking seductive and desperate for attention

Bb) **Players will go after seductive** – but a guy looking for a girl to marry knows better than that!

C) Rule of thumb – ladies – young pp – Choosing outfits – leave room for the imagination –

1) **Attractive and modest** – leave room – not so tight we see every curve

So Ruth gets presentable – heads down to the threshing floor –

A) Compliments – Ruth look pretty smell good – probably humming “Going to the threshing floor - married”

B) What Naomi is doing is sending Ruth on a proposal mission –

C) I would guess – she was probably very nervous – probably not singing at all.

Not sure I like this plan really! Risky – Ruth is being placed in Vulnerable position really.

A) Vulnerable in relation to her safety!

B) The threshing floor is going to be filled with young men – workers of Boaz

1) Ruth is going there in the middle of the night – {Dad don’t like that!

C) Amy works at night – walks to car – Car to her apartment – I am always nervous.

But Ruth is also Vulnerable to her reputation.

A) Who knows what pp are going to say if it gets out!

B) Town Gossips - Did you hear what that Moabite girl did – I knew they were loose –

C) Moabites started – Lots Daughter – only a matter of time show her colors

1) Some pp just love to GOSSIP Church gossips -- **Chuck Swindol – Tavern – her house**

C) Ruth’s reputation was being put in a vulnerable place here!

Good place to mention that not everything that is described in the Bible is prescribed.

A) Some pp **use the Bible to their own destruction** – they take a passage out of context and try to apply it to their situation.

B) Parents don’t do that – don’t call your daughters away at college **I just read a fascinating story Ruth 3**

1) Sneaks into the threshing floor **UNCOVERS** this guys feet – blanket over

C) Sp You could sneak into the men’s dorm – find some nice boy and uncover his feet- **NO !!!!!!**

D) **Description not a Prescription** – Pp run with things like this – Jason new book – **“uncovering the feet of your future spouse.”**

This doesn't make sense for our culture but even though it was risky it made sense in their culture. Risky Faith!

A) Ruth goes along with the Plan – not knowing what to expect

B) She takes a step of faith – believing in the wisdom of Naomi and her insight into the culture.

- 1) She knows Boaz is a good godly man!
- 2) She goes believing also in the Providential leading of God.

Taking a step of faith can often be RISKY!

A) That is why some pp never take steps of faith – they live their lives in the waiting room.

B) Waiting for step by step details before they do anything – so they end up doing NOTHING!

C) Some pp are so afraid of going in the wrong direction that they never go in the right direction.

You love the Lord – want His will before your own

A) Don't be scared to take a step of faith!

B) God loves you – has you – wrong – He will work in it

Is there anything going on in your life right now that speaks only of faith?

A) Or have you been neutralized in your walk – stuck in the waiting room?

Waiting for clear detailed direction?

B) Charles Wesley when asked of the dangers of faith and presumption said:

“I would rather have one man who was so on fire that I had to constantly cool him down, than to have 10 unenthusiastic men I was constantly having to warm up.” Charles Wesley

C) Get that – Rather have one guy who I would have to say: Wait a minute, slowdown, - than 10 guys I was always having to push.

D) So Ruth takes a step of faith and goes down to the Threshing floor in the night.

Ruth's follow through V.6-7

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, {Work was over glad} he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.

Ruth goes down and watches and waits she has to pay attention to where Boaz lies down –

A) Other servants there – she didn't want to pick the wrong guy! – **Randy Cahill – Boston Wrong car**

B) Once he is asleep – she sneaks up uncovers his feet lies there!

1) Note again there is nothing sensual about what is taking place here.

Bb) Boaz has been working all night –sweaty – dirty – snoring –

C) Ruth comes in and lays at his feet – pulled the blanket over her

Proposal in the Darkness! V.8-10

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?"

Boaz stretches out – feet suddenly realizes there is something there!

A) That would be startling – ever done that? – I have been awakened from a dead sleep – my wife got up in the middle of the night – who is there!

B) Who are you – who is there –

C) Imagine them reminiscing about this years later – one of the kids – tell us the story how you met again.

1) Ruth gets to this part and your dad screamed like a little girls – did not – did too

D) The Bible is full of surprises involving marriage that have to do with sleep.

1) Adam goes to sleep – wakes up and finds he is married has a wife

2) Jacob goes to sleep and wakes up finds out that He married the wrong girl

3) Boaz wakes up from sleep –to a proposal for
Who is there? **So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative."**

I want you to note that Ruth breaks from the script here – She is ad-libbing a little. –

A) Naomi didn't tell her to say anything and yet she is essentially proposing marriage to Boaz –

B) He realizes it!

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.

A) This is important to note: *You have shown even more kindness at the end than you have at the beginning.*

B) It was very apparent to most pp the sacrifice that Ruth made in returning with Naomi –

1) Rather than taking the comfortable route – stay in Moab with her own family

C) People admired her loyalty and kindness for doing that.

D) But as I said earlier – the Levirate law did not apply to Ruth – because Mahlon did not have a living brother. –

So Ruth is free to marry whoever she wants –

A) Which is exactly what Boaz is referring to in v.10 – You could seek out a younger man – anyone

B) Ruth understands that if things are going to go forward in a way that brings blessing honor to Elimelech and Naomi –

1) She needs to marry a kinsman redeemer.

C) So that is what she chooses to do!

Now Boaz realizes that Ruth is making a sacrifice in seeking out a Kinsman redeemer to preserve the family of Naomi and Elimelech

A) The Law of Moses made provision for a woman to request marriage of a kinsman redeemer. –

B) RUTH IS PROPOSING

C) Her Kindness has gone to a whole new level!

1) She again doesn't know how this story is going to end. – She will be great grandma DavidJesus

D) Her love for Naomi – leading her to Propose marriage to this older man

E) V. 10 Also gives some insight into why Boaz didn't pursue Ruth to begin with!

1) He thought he was too old for Ruth

2) He was impressed with Ruth – **but didn't consider himself a candidate because of his age!**

Boaz promise V.11-15

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. 12 Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. {

A) Criteria for Kinsman Redeemer – Able, willing & the Nearest Kinsman} Boaz says – there is one closer

B) Insight into Boaz attraction to Ruth – he says you are A Virtuous women –

C) Boaz was also attracted to Ruth because of her character.

1) We don't really know how Ruth looked, but we do know she was a woman of godly character.

D) The Basic meaning behind the word virtuous used here is a Literally, Hebrew word meaning “**moral strength, good quality & integrity,**

1) This same word is used in a term for heroes in the Bible: *A mighty man of valor.*

E) That matters a lot girls - Your reputation.

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."

Stay the night – again nothing sensual here — Boaz is being a protector!

A) He is concerned for Ruth's Safety Dangerous for a young girl to venture out in the middle of the night.

B) Lie down until morning!

C) He is concerned for her Reputation

14 So she lay at his feet until morning, {Not cuddling} and she arose before one could recognize another. {Early morning hrs Still dark} Then he said, "Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." {Acting Discreetly}

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. {Balanced 60 lbs} Then she went into the city.

Ruth comes Home V.16-18

16 When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "Is that you, my daughter?" {NIV – How did it go ?

A) Not that she didn't recognize her but more the idea of – So?

B) What is the Verdict are you still single or are you engaged?

C) Then she told her all that the man had done for her. {She told her everything

Listen young pp you are not going to like me for saying this – but I do want you to think about this. –

A) Do not do anything that you would not want your affectionate mother to know!

B) **Young pp you will save yourself a lot of heartache and pain – live with a lot less regret –**

1) If you choose to not do anything or go anyplace that you can't come home and tell mom or mom and dad – everything

C) Say that as one who loves you and who made mistakes that I regret when I was your age!

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.'"

When Naomi sees the six ephahs of barley – she realizes this is good

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."

He has got the hots for you! –He loves you Ruth -

Great story – true story! 1200 BC

A) The story is also a beautiful picture of our relationship with Jesus!

B) Ruth comes to Boaz penniless and a foreigner - an alien –

C) We come to Christ – spiritually bankrupt – alienated from God because of our sin.

Boaz is a Kinsman redeemer! –Near Kin – relative!

A) **Jesus became a man** – left the glory of heaven in order to become one of us - One in every way – everything – except he was sinless.

B) That gave him the ability to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world – Spotless lamb – lamb without blemish

C) The way that Boaz dealt with Ruth is the way the Jesus deals with everyone who repents and believes

Ruth cast herself at the feet of Boaz – we are to cast ourselves at the feet of Christ! –

A) Sit at his feet – Face love and forgiveness – Acceptance

Ruth came depending on the mercy of Boaz –

We come depending on the mercy of Jesus – He gives so readily

Ruth was covered by the corner of Boaz blanket –
We have been covered by the righteousness of Christ – Robed in his righteousness – His blood

Ruth was introduced to peace and security and blessing brought under the wings of Boaz

A) We have been placed under the loving care and protection of the wings of Jesus –

B) We can now live with peace and sense of assurance – destiny

C) **Boaz will take Ruth to himself to be his bride – 1)**
Jesus has taken us to Himself to be His bride! – showers us with love and affection

D) Ruth was sent home with a blessing of provision.

Jesus has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness.

E) The question that remains today – Have you ever cast yourself down at the feet of Jesus and asked you to make you – His own

Sculpture by Thors Walden – **Jesus stooping – hair in face – from every angle – can't see his feet – only way to see his face was to sit at his feet**

Humble yourself -