

## Ruth 3 Proposal

### Recap: Week 3 of the book of Ruth last week.

A)Chapter 1 we were introduced to a family from the tribe of Judah living in Bethlehem.

B)House of bread – place of praise

1)When famine hit, they sold their land/ hit the road to Moab

C)Moab is not a nice place – God called it My Wash pot

1)The People of Moab started – after Lot escaped the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah w/ 2 daughters

D)All Lot has left is his two girls – Genesis 19

### One daughter says to the other – nothing left – no heirs – get dad drunk – sleep with us

A)Both get pregnant – and two nations – come from that union – Ammonites – horrible enemies of Israel

B)The Moabites – A horribly immoral people

C)So that is where Elimelech = (God is King) takes his family – WRONG PLACE

1)He takes them there because he doesn't want them to starve and die during the famine { 10yrs

### ELIMELECH dies / his two sons marry – but they also die – Run to the world death is always a result

### So now we have 3 widows –

A)Naomi – the Mom – her two daughters in law Ruth and Orpah

B)Naomi hears – there is bread again Bethlehem – she says I am going home – don't belong here

1)But to her daughters in-law – You do this is your home your family – your people – marry again -stay

C)One of the daughters Orpah says – Yes I am going to stay –

D)But Ruth says no way: I am staying with you – Where you go I will go –

1)your people my people – your God my God.

### Chapter 1 ends with Ruth and Naomi arriving back in Bethlehem

A)the women of Bethlehem say: Is that Naomi = Pleasant

B)Naomi = says yes it is me – but don't call me Naomi anymore – don't call be pleasant –

1)Call me Mara= bitterness – God has dealt bitterly with me.

C)Chapter 2 opens – Ruth and Naomi – trying to figure out how to survive/ no land, no money, no Job

### God had this great welfare plan in Israel – The poor, fatherless, widows taken care of

A)Harvest time Harvesters got one pass through

B)The poor – tag along behind them and pick – the leftover grain – barley – grapes

C)That is what Ruth – decides to do and she just happens – to end up in the field of Boaz

1)Boaz is a relative – this plays an important part in the story – see today

D)Noted last time – When you are seeking to honor God with your life – like Ruth was –

1)NOTHING JUST HAPPENS – She ends up there because of the Providence of God

### The Providence of God is like the unseen rudder that steers the ship

A)God unbeknownst to Ruth leads her into the field of Boaz – a near Kinsman –

B)Because this is all a part of the providential plan of God to bring about His Messiah – for Israel

C)Well Boaz – has heard of Ruth what she did in coming back with Naomi

1)Ruth's reputation has a woman of Character has preceded her

D)Boaz is intrigued by this – Super nice to Ruth  
Lunch time – sit with me

A)Don't glean in any other field – we will take care of you.

B)He does – he tells the supervisor – let her glean among the reapers instead of behind

1) In other words – let her take what she wants and not just the scraps

C) Ruth does so – She comes home with a bundle

1) Enough food for several days – and she gets to go back every day! – come back everyday

Pick up in Chapter 2 v.19 <sup>19</sup> And her mother-in-law said to her, “Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one who took notice of you.”

So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, “The man’s name with whom I worked today *is* Boaz.”

<sup>20</sup> Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “Blessed *be* he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!” And Naomi said to her, “This man *is* a relation of ours, one of our close relatives.”

<sup>21</sup> Ruth the Moabitess said, “He also said to me, ‘You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.’ **come back everyday = 6 weeks**

<sup>22</sup> And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, “*It is* good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, and that people do not meet you in any other field.” <sup>23</sup> So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

**Note: The end of V. 20 This man is a close relative of ours! –**

A) This is important because of a custom in Israel at this time – The law of the Kinsman redeemer

B) There were two other laws God set up in caring for Widows – One was called the levirate law

1) Nothing to do with the tribe of Levi – The word Levir = husband’s brother

C) That law said if the man died leaving his wife without a Male child to carry on the family name

1) His younger unmarried brother was obligated to marry the widow and produce a Child

D) The First child would carry on his dead brother’s line.

This was an obligation and if the younger brother refused to do it – He would be considered despicable

A) Funny story ritual – the wife takes off her shoe and slaps him in the face with it –

B) That was the Levirate law – This is not that!

1) Ruth’s Husband Mahlon is dead – but there is not a younger brother to marry her –

C) So the Levirate law doesn’t apply

**Another custom – The kinsman redeemer**

A) It said this: If a man lost his farm or land – because of death/ debt/ poor decisions

B) A close relative could purchase or redeem the land back – if 3 Criteria

1) The Nearest Kinsman

2) He was Able to – He could afford it

3) He was willing - Here was the catch

C) If there was a Widow involved – In order to get the land – He had to marry the widow

1) Different from the Levirate law – He was not obligated to do anything

D) But if he wanted the land and there was a Widow he had to be willing to Marry her.

**So this is why Naomi gets excited here- She says to Ruth -He is a Near Kinsman –**

A) He can be your redeemer

B) Chapter 3 Naomi finds herself thinking about Ruth’s future and she comes up with plan

Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you? 2 Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.

3 Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. 4 Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do.”

5 And she said to her, “All that you say to me I will do.”

**Act 3 Scene 1 – Naomi’s Plan**

A)Boaz is in the threshing floor tonight – end of the Barley Harvest -

B)Community threshing floor – share – take turns – calculated – this is Boaz’s night

C)Hillside – wind– Separate wheat and the Chaff

Plan: Wash yourself – put on some perfume  
Moabite Madness #3

A)And your best outfit – head down there!

B)Here is what she is saying – Boaz has only seen you in you hot sweaty, dirty working in the field

1)IN your migrant worker outfit

C)Tonight is going to be different - **Look presentable!**

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

1)Look presentable – Mentioned last week – looks aren’t everything – Character is important

But if you want to catch the eye of a good godly guy looking presentable – helps

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

B)For years that was debate in the church – ok to wear makeup – **Magee – solved problem**

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

C)Look pretty girls – Important

Note:V.3 Don’t make yourself known to him until he has finished eating and drinking –

A)This is also good advice – women – you want to engage in conversation with a man

B)wait until after dinner – wait until he has eaten  
1)Wise advice – Don’t bring anything heavy to your hubby until – eaten not on an empty stomach

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 –

Then this is where it gets weird – Watch where he lays down to go to sleep – once asleep

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

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

C)Ruth says in V.5 **all you have said I will do!**

WHAT kind of plan is this?

A)This sounds crazy we need to quickly remove this from 20<sup>th</sup> 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 looking for a goodtime and no commitment will go after seductive –

1)A guy looking for a wife – not interested in that

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

A)Some people **use the Bible to their own destruction** –

B)they take a passage out of context and try to apply it to their situation.

1)Parents don’t do that here

C)Don’t call your daughters away at college – **I just read a fascinating story in Ruth 3**

1) Sneaks into the threshing floor UNCOVERS this guy’s feet – blanket over

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

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

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

A) **Probably humming** “Going to the threshing floor - ..... married”

**Act 3 Scene 2 Ruth’s Risk**

<sup>6</sup> So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her.

<sup>7</sup> And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.

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

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 – As a Dad don’t like that!

**But Ruth is also Vulnerable to her reputation.**

A) **Who knows what people 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? – Lot’s Daughter – only a matter of time show her colors**

1) **Some people just love to GOSSIP Church gossips –**

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

**This doesn’t make sense for our culture but even though it was risky it made sense in their culture.**

A) **Ruth goes along with the Plan – not knowing what to expect - Risky Faith!**

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!**

**Taking a step of faith can often being RISKY!**

A) **That is why some people 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 people 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!**

**“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**

B) **I Get that – Rather have one guy who I would have to say: Wait a minute, slowdown, -**

1) **than 10 guys I was always having to push to try things**

C) **In this age where we are so prone to seeking comfort – I see less and less people willing to take risk**

1) **Willing to say – like Jonathan and his armor bearer – let’s see what the Lord might want to do!**

**D) This might seem crazy – different – but let’s just see what God might want to do.**

1) **Go for it**

**Ruth is willing to take the risk – of having others think wrongly of her**

A) **Boaz misunderstand her – to see what God might want to do here**

B) **When was the last time you took a risk like that – let’s see what God might want to do?**

C) **That is often when awesome things happen!**

<sup>8</sup> Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet. <sup>9</sup> And he said, “Who are you?” So she answered, “I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, **for you are a close relative.**”

**What is she saying here?**

A)Remember back in ch 2, verse 12, Boaz prayed that God would take Ruth under his proverbial wing.

B)Here Ruth is saying – I want you to be the answer to that prayer -

1)Love me, protect me, hold me close, look after me.”

C)Go Ruth – I love this girl

Some of your translations say, “Spread your blanket over me.”

A)This word is used both ways in scripture. It can be translated either way. Wing or blanket

B)Putting your blanket or wing over a woman was akin in our day to putting a ring on her finger.

1)You thought – BEYONCE came up with that – It was RUTH

C)Now, she’s not proposing, but she’s proposing that he propose. Okay? That’s what she’s asking.

D)she is saying, “I would love to be under your blanket as your wife.”

Her desires are good, and her outlet for them is holy and sanctified. She wants to be his wife.

A)She’s not asking to have anything inappropriate before the wedding,

B)But she is giving him incentive to HURRY up and get the ball rolling

C)She’s very bold. She takes a great risk.

1)The question then begs to be answered, how will Boaz respond?

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 people 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 –

1)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)I think 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!**

C)But this also means that Ruth understands that if things are going to go forward in a way that brings blessing honor to Naomi –

1) she needs to marry a kinsman redeemer.

D)So that is what she chooses to do!

1)Boaz is once again admiring her for her sacrifice

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)I also find this interesting – tells me that Boaz has thought about it – done his homework

B)But he sees the obstacles – I am older – Ruth is younger – I am a kinsman – but not the nearest

C)This to me is a awesome picture of how **great things often happen for the Lord**

1)You have a person in Ruth – says – lets go for it

D)But then you have the more conservative – person in Boaz – everything is well thought out

1)Often times the Boaz types among us need the Ruth’s to push us out of comfort zones

E)But the Ruth’s types need the Boaz types to make sure things are done well

1)Cool picture to me -Ministry and even how two opposites often work in marriage

Notice again v.11 – We see Boaz appreciation for Ruth's Character - you are A Virtuous women

A)What he says next – gives us insight into how he wants to protect her virtue

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}

D)This is why I caution Dating couples about PDA

1)You have her reputation to consider – people see you being all touchy feely in public –

E)They are going to naturally wonder what you are doing in private

On top of that – Solomon said this about lust – can a man take fire to his bosom and not get burned?

A)Answer is no – Point – lust and PDA – don't get the fire going – don't get too close – burn you

B)So I love this about Boaz – he is concerned about Ruth's reputation – so he acts 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. Then she went into the city.

Act 3 Scene 3 - 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 – DETAILS

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

A)Another way to stay pure in dating - Do not do anything that you couldn't tell your mother!

B)Young people 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 any place that you can't come home and tell mom or dad – everything

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.'"

The book of Ruth has some great insights into dating

A)Who was the big, generous gift for? Naomi.

B)Listen single bros – you like a girl – look for ways to get on the good side of her mother  
1)don't just think of how you can honor the GIRL. Also think of how you can honor her mother.

C)Boaz is doing that here – GOOD EXAMPLE

When Naomi sees the six ephahs of barley – she realizes this is good- He is interested – plan is working

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."

A)I love this – there is a time to ACT a time to take risk – and there is a time to sit and wait

B)Naomi is she is led by the Spirit. Initially she told Ruth, "Don't wait. Time's wasting."

1)Here she says, "Wait. If he really loves you, he'll figure it out. Let him go prove himself.

C) What she doesn't tell Ruth is, "Get your laptop out. Let's open Excel. Let's put together a plan.

1) Let's email it to Boaz with step-by-step instructions."

**D) No – She says now is the time to sit here and wait see how the Lord works this all out**

**This is a great story – so many wonderful and practical applications for us**

A) But we must not miss the one that is the most wonderful for us

B) The story of Ruth is also a beautiful picture of our relationship with Jesus! –

1) Consider

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

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

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

A) A kinsman Redeemer had to be the **Nearest kinsman – Boaz isn't**

B) He had to be Able to redeem – Financially able to pay the price

C) **He had to be willing** – He was not obligated

**Jesus is our nearest Kinsman – 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam**

A) ADAM was the first perfect man – who fell – who sinned – his fall infected all of us –

B) Born into sin! Sin nature – we are not sinners because we sin

1) We sin because we are sinners – we can't help it  
That is the result of the 1<sup>st</sup> Adam's failure

**But Jesus is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam – the second perfect man**

A) He left the glory of heaven in order to become one of us

B) One in every way – struggles – faced everything – except he was sinless.

C) That is what makes him ABLE to redeem us –  
1) Remember the Kinsman redeemer had to be Able

D) SINLESS JESUS = Able to be sinless sacrifice

E) That gave him the ability to be the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world –

1) Spotless lamb – lamb without blemish

**So Jesus is the nearest Kin – the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam**

A) He is able to Redeem us – Sinless man – He can be the sinless sacrifice

B) But the Kinsman redeemer is not obligated to redeem – He has to be willing

C) Jesus WAS willing to be our Redeemer – he wasn't forced – he volunteered for the mission

**D) 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

**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

**B) Ruth came depending on the mercy of Boaz –**

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

**C) Ruth was covered by the corner of Boaz blanket**

1) 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 wing of Boaz**

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

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

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

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

A) The question that remains today –

B) Have you ever cast yourself down at the feet of Jesus and asked you to make you – His own