

Ruth 3:1-9

Ruth Seeks Rest

1. 3:1 – Naomi Helps Ruth Find Rest

- a. Time passed since ch. 2. Ruth gleaned to the end of barley (April) wheat (May) harvest
 - i. Ruth trusted the LORD (2:12), Ruth found grace from Boaz (2:13)
- b. Naomi goes from bitter/empty (1:20) to hopeful (2:20), *now* to blessing Ruth (3:1)
- c. *“shall I not seek rest for thee...”* - Different than 1:11-13, this woman has faith and love
- d. They are pursuing rest (just like the remnant of Israel) - Heb 3:8-14, 17-19, 4:10-11

2. 3:2 – Boaz and the Threshingfloor

- a. 2 - *“Boaz [is] of our kindred”* - Turns out doing the law can lead them to redemption.
- b. *“winnoweth ... threshingfloor”* - threshing separated grain, winnowing separated chaff
 - i. E.g. Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox ... 1 Cor 9:7-10 (Deu 25:4)
 - ii. Chaff and wheat speak to ungodly/godly in the Bible - Jer 23:28
- c. *“to night in the threshingfloor”* - winnowing requires a breeze, so often done at night
 - i. Prophetically, threshingfloor speaks to judgment. Matt 13:27+, 25:32, 3:12

3. 3:3-4 - Make Yourself Ready

- a. 3 - *“wash... anoint... put raiment upon”* - Ruth is no longer mourning her dead husband
 - i. The same instruction to priests, here for Ruth - Exo 29:4-7
 - ii. John said to “prepare ye the way...” Mat 3:3,6,8 - Ruth is preparing for the way
- b. *“make not thyself known ... until”* - After the winnowing, Ruth is known. (So is Christ.)
- c. 4 - *“he will tell thee what thou shalt do”* - Either she will find rest or reprimand at his feet

4. 3:5-7 – Ruth’s Obedience

- a. 5 - *“All that thou sayest ... I will do”* - Compare 1:16 & 2:2 (cf. Matt 23:2-3, Eph 5:22)
 - i. Naomi is insufficient, but Ruth (faithful/obedient) goes to the lord - 1Ti 2:5
 - ii. If Ruth obeys, then she could mediate redemption for Naomi - Heb 8:6-8, 9:15
- b. 6 - *“and she went...”* - Ruth went to the judgment in obedience to the (mother in) law
- c. 7 - *“she ... uncovered his feet, and laid her down”* - A show of submission not seduction
 - i. Not removing raiment, not laying next to him, not as a wife, but as a footstool
 - ii. Re: footstool of God see 1 Chron 28:2, Isa 66:1, Psa 132:6-11

5. 3:8-9 – Ruth’s Request

- a. 8 - *“it came to pass at midnight”* - She lay at his feet through the night.
 - i. *“the man was afraid, and turned himself”* - He did not know she was there.
 - ii. *“a woman lay at his feet”* - Halfway through the night, she was not by his side.
- b. 9 - *“I am Ruth”* - Whom he knew from ch. 1 and in whom he was well pleased in ch. 2
- c. *“spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid”* - A request to marry - see Eze 16:18
 - i. This not a sensual request, evil deeds, but a request to enter a (new) covenant
 - ii. Married Jewish women to this day are covered in marriage by their husband.
- d. *“for thou art a near kinsman”* - Uncovering feet in the law Ruth claims - Deu 25:9
 - i. She follows Israel’s God to be with her mother in law (ch1)
 - ii. She obeys gleaning laws to honor he mother in law (ch2)
 - iii. She claims kinsman laws to redeem her mother in law (ch3)