

**Ruth 3**  
**Rest and Covering**  
**February 3, 2008**

- I. Naomi's plan for Ruth
  - A. Notice her renewed love for Ruth
    1. 1:18 "she stopped talking to her" despite the love of her daughter-in-law
    2. 1:21 "the Lord has brought me back empty" despite the presence of her daughter-in-law
    3. she will understand the value of Ruth (4:15)
    4. but now, Naomi shows great love for her daughter-in-law
      - a. the man is a close relative of **ours**, one of **our** redeemers (2:20)
      - b. seek rest for you, that it may be well with you (3:1)
  - B. Naomi's plan
    1. party at the threshing floor (v. 2)
    2. prepare yourself as a bride (v. 3)  
*Ezekiel 16:9-10* <sup>9</sup> Then I bathed you with water and washed off your blood from you and anointed you with oil. <sup>10</sup> I clothed you also with embroidered cloth and shod you with fine leather. I wrapped you in fine linen and covered you with silk.
    3. uncover his feet
      - a. ambiguity of language – recklessness or faith?
      - b. Author creates tension
      - c. Naomi's faith in Boaz (v. 2)
  - C. Ruth's submission
    1. All that you say I will do (v. 5)
    2. Ruth has submitted to her responsibility as a member of the covenant family
      - a. no one else to carry on the names of Elimelech and Mahlon
      - b. like Tamar, willing to proactively pursue a redeemer for the sake of others – not only Elimelech and Mahlon, but also Naomi
      - c. Boaz will acknowledge her covenant faithfulness (v. 10)
    3. She does this at great risk to her own well-being (2:8-9, 22)
      - a. her personal safety (2:22)
      - b. her personal reputation (v. 14)
- II. Boaz and Ruth at the threshing floor
  - A. Boaz at the threshing floor
    1. his heart was merry
      - a. literally → it was well with him – parallel with v. 1
      - b. it is well with Boaz – will he be able to provide well-being for Ruth?
    2. The great risk that Boaz faces
      - a. his heart was merry after eating and drinking
      - b. she uncovered his feet and lay down – ambiguous at best
        - i. feet or legs?
        - ii. Levirate obligation – not require a wedding ceremony
      - c. startled by woman at his feet (v. 9)
      - d. risking his own reputation (v. 14)
  - B. The virtue of Boaz and Ruth
    1. How would you react?
      - a. faced with great temptation
      - b. responds with clear head in the middle of the night

- c. even startled and dulled by food and drink and sleep, he responds as a man with the Word of God in his heart
- 2. His response – who are you?
- 3. Her request – “spread your wings over your servant”
  - a. covenantal language (2:12)
  - b. marital language
    - Ezekiel 16:8<sup>8</sup> "When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord GOD, and you became mine.*
- 4. Boaz commends her virtue
  - a. her covenant faithfulness (hesed), v. 10
  - b. a worthy woman praised in the gates (Knox: “a bride worth winning”) – a Proverbs 31 woman

C. Boaz the faithful redeemer

- 1. Doesn't take advantage of the situation
- 2. Does show himself to be a faithful and generous redeemer
- 3. Rests in God's providence
  - a. a redeemer nearer than I
  - b. promises to accomplish her redemption in the morning
  - c. if he will not, as the LORD lives, I will redeem you
- 4. Protective redeemer (v. 14)
- 5. Generous redeemer
  - a. more than twice as much as 2:17
  - b. over 80 pounds – so heavy, Boaz must “put it on her”

III. Ruth returns to Naomi

A. Naomi's question

- 1. How did you fare, my daughter?
- 2. Literally → who are you, my daughter? (see v. 9)
- 3. Are you Boaz's wife

B. The promise of the redeemer

- 1. recounts his covenant promise of faithfulness
- 2. his generous gift of grain
- 3. Naomi's situation reversed
  - a. Naomi went away full, brought back empty (1:21)
  - b. Ruth went away empty, brought back full (v. 17)
  - c. Naomi empty no longer

C. Naomi's renewed faith – confidence in the character of Boaz (v. 18)

IV. Application

A. The example of covenant faithfulness in Ruth and Boaz

- 1. The confidence of Boaz in God's providence – he will bring a good resolution to the situation of Ruth and Naomi (v. 13)
- 2. The patience of Boaz
- 3. The covenant commitment of both
  - a. Boaz – fulfill the responsibility of the redeemer and of Levirate marriage
  - b. Ruth – pursue a redeemer for her and Naomi
- 4. the persistence of Ruth

B. The love of our Redeemer

Ferguson: “If anyone in Bethlehem wanted to explain to a stranger how Yahweh has loved his people . . . all they would need to do would be to say four words: ‘As Boaz loves Ruth.’”