

Ruth Chapter 03 Commentary

1 ¶ "Then Naomi her mother-in-law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee? 2 And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley tonight in the threshingfloor. 3 Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking. 4 And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do."

One moral lesson we can learn from this chapter in Ruth: for single persons, both males and females, there is a proper, God given, order set for courtship prior to marriage. As we shall see, both persons involved are conducting their lives and living according to "**thus saith the Lord**" not following the lust of their flesh. We live in a world that, at large, has come to completely ignore "**thus saith the Lord**" and they are doing what is right in their own eyes. They call it the new morality, which is nothing but a new name for a long existent sin.

Naomi, understanding that God has granted favor and blessing on Ruth, now understands; she is to seek marriage, to a near kinsman, for Ruth. She tells Ruth: you clean up, put on your best perfume, and dress up in your finest clothes, then go to the threshing floor of Boaz, where he will be winnowing barley that night. She tells her to keep herself hidden from Boaz until he lays down to sleep. (several expositors say this means, and to which I agree; she was to be seen of Boaz in her best attire, but she is not to make known her errand known until that night) She explains to Ruth, the custom of laying down at the feet of Boaz is the proper way, for her to ask Boaz to marry her and raise up seed to the dead.

What a picture is presented here for the coming sinner, who desires to be a part of the church of Jesus Christ. What do you mean? When you come forward asking a home in the church fellowship, do not come dragging your past along with you. Recognize, Christ has cleansed you from your sins, and make this known to God's people. Come forward proclaiming what great things Christ has done for you, which is putting on your best clothing and perfume, so that you are as a newborn baby being presented for others to see. Come forward displaying the robes of the righteousness of Christ as your garments. Come forward seeking a place at the feet of Jesus, and he will tell you all that you are to do.

5 "And she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do. 6 ¶ And she went down unto the floor, and did according to all that her mother-in-law bade her. 7 And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down."

Ruth agrees to do all that her mother-in-law has instructed her to do. Notice, that Ruth comes softly and lies down at the feet of Boaz. A lesson for us: we do not come forward seeking a home in the church of Jesus Christ, boasting of all we have done. We do not come forward in a loud and boisterous manner. Rather, we come forward in humility, recognizing that Christ has done all the eternal saving and forgiveness of sins, and we have done all the sinning. We come forward; humbly seeking to acknowledge our near Kinsman, Jesus Christ.

8 "And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and behold, a woman lay at his feet. 9 And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman. 10 And he said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich. 11 And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman. 12 And now it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I. 13 Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, as the LORD liveth: lie down until the morning."

At midnight Boaz became afraid because he felt the presence of a woman at his feet. Boaz being a man of integrity, knew, that if this was known to others, his reputation would be marred. Since it is dark enough that he cannot discern who it is; he ask for her name. Ruth, having been instructed by Naomi of the proper time to make

her request for marriage, now tells her name, declares that Boaz is a near kinsman, and makes her request for redemption and marriage known.

Note, Boaz recognizes the virtue of Ruth, meaning she has not one who has been having sexual relations with however she chose, but has kept herself in purity of heart. Boaz praises her for coming in the right manner. He tells her there is a kinsman nearer than he, who has first right to marry her. He tells her to tarry that night, and he will take care of things in the morning.

This gives us the prophetic picture of grafting in of the Gentiles into the church of God, and reveals that God's eternal will and purpose was to save both Jew and Gentile, seen in: **1Pe 1:1-10; 1 "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. 3 ¶ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 ¶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: 9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. 10 ¶ Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: " whom he will."**

Boaz also declares, if the nearer kinsman cannot redeem thee, then I will do it. We understand that the nearer kinsman is the picture of the law service, which could not redeem anyone eternally. Thus, we have the need for the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, to come and do the part of the near kinsman, and eternally save God's people, both Jew and Gentile.

14 ¶ "And she lay at his feet until the morning: and she rose up before one could know another. And he said, Let it not be known that a woman came into the floor.

Boaz tells Ruth to remain at his feet until morning, because he will not send her trapping off in the night with a chance of ruining her reputation of being a virtuous woman. He also tells her; do not let it be known that you were here, or it will mar my reputation and yours.

Ruth tarried through the remaining darkness until the morning, before one could know another, which gives us the prophetic picture of Christ, having risen from the dead before others could see his finished work. In other words; salvation by grace could not be revealed, until the demands of the law were satisfied. Herein, we see Jesus coming in the night, the darkness of the law service, and with his life, death, burial, and resurrection, and in the morning, when salvation by grace is revealed with the rising of the SON, bringing to fruition a new age of Salvation by Grace, and the established church on earth.

Do you see; with the resurrection of Christ and his lingering upon the earth, before his ascension to the eternal heaven, he was finishing the promise to Ruth, the type of the grace church? The law could not purchase the field and marry Ruth, who was a Gentile, and yet she is identified as a virtuous woman? However, Boaz, in a figure Christ, was willing to purchase the land and marry Ruth, to bring forth children to preserve the lineage of God's people on earth.

It is with the rising of the "Son" that we see the new day beginning, and the revelation of the redemption of Ruth, seen with the age of salvation by grace coming to fruition. It is with the resurrection of Christ, and His ascension, we see the revelation of the redemption of God's people manifested. How do we see this in scripture? At the day of Pentecost, and the preaching of the gospel we see Ruth, the grace church, begin to bear fruit meet for repentance.

15 Also he said, Bring the veil that thou hast upon thee, and hold it. And when she held it, he measured six measures of barley, and laid it on her: and she went into the city."

Boaz does not send Ruth away empty handed, for this would have indicated to Naomi that he had rejected to do the part of a kinsman to Ruth. He sends Ruth away with this gift, which indicates to Naomi that Boaz is ready, and willing, to do what must be done to redeem the possessions of Elimelech, and with that redemption, to do the part of a near kinsman, and to take Ruth to be his wife.

Christ has measured to the church of Salvation by Grace, the bread of life, which is needed to carry her through time until the marriage supper of the Lamb. Ruth here is a type of the church of salvation by grace, and all God's people, who are laded with the bread of life, and the duty to go forth and sow in all the world.

The six measures are a type of the shed blood of Christ Jesus. That which was necessary to completely obliterate sin from all of God's people in time. Had not Christ gave his life on the cross, and resurrected from the dead, we would none have any hope of being redeemed and resurrected in sinless, immortal, and incorruptible bodies. Since Christ is the only means and way into the eternal heaven with God, we understand that when he did his work here on earth, it also included every heir of grace from the beginning of time until the end thereof, typified by the work of God in the beginning of time. In six days, God created all things, and on the seventh He rested. This typifies the eternal rest, which is forthcoming, when God has given all the grace and mercy that He has prescribed. Then the end will come, and time will be no more. When we are in the presence of God and Christ; we will have no need of bread for we shall ever be with the Lord.

16 And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, Who art thou, my daughter? And she told her all that the man had done to her. 17 And she said, These six measures of barley gave he me; for he said to me, Go not empty unto thy mother-in-law. 18 Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day."

Naomi inquires of Ruth what has happened. She wants to know if Ruth was accepted or rejected. *Ru 3:17* "**And she said, These six measures of barley gave he me; for he said to me, Go not empty unto thy mother-in-law.**" The "**six measures of barley**" is the prophetic picture, that Christ also measured all the redemptive grace necessary, for both Jew and Gentile to be saved into the Church of Salvation by Grace.

Naomi tells Ruth: sit still and see what God will do, for Boaz will not rest, until he has accomplished the will of God this day. We have a similar testimony from God seen in: *Ps 46:10* "**Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.**" The context, of this chapter of Psalms, is a picture of the end of time, and the gathering of the saints of God to their eternal home. This is the picture for us, also. Jesus Christ, having finished the work of eternally redeeming us from our sins, will not rest, until he has fully accomplished the work of eternal salvation at the end of time. Now wait a minute preacher; we thought the work of Christ was finished on the cross. The work of eternal forgiveness of sins, and the procurement of the eternal salvation, of all those God gave him to save was accomplished. However, the manifestation of this finished work is continuing upon the earth, in time, each time a sinner is born-again.

Every chosen child of God must be born and regenerated here in time. When the last one is regenerated, and their work on earth completed, the end of time will come. Then Christ will carry his bride away to heaven, and immortal glory, and his work will be manifested as completely, and finally, accomplished. We must all be gathered and carried to the place Jesus has gone to prepare for us, before all the work of Christ will be completed. Then we will have that perfect rest in the Eternal Land of Promise. What a day that will be! Hallelujah! Amen!