

RUTH WEEK FIVE—CHAPTER 3

REVIEW

Ruth asks Naomi if she can go glean in the fields of harvest after anyone that would show her favor. Ruth works hard and then meets Boaz the owner of the field in which she has chosen to glean. He invites her to stay close and instructs his men to leave her alone. She bows in humility realizing she has been extended grace. Boaz (“In whose name is strength”, and reflecting God’s character) blesses, serves, protects, and provides for Ruth (“female friend”, and a picture of the Church) Ruth informed Naomi of the situation that brought Naomi hope. Ruth continued to live with Naomi and work in the fields of Boaz for two to three more months.

Going Deeper:

1. vs 2 Read Matthew 3:1-12, Mal. 3:1-3, Amos 9:9, Luke 22:31, Matt. 13:30, Matt. 13:43 What does this picture of winnowing explain to us? Again we are reminded of Deut 25:5 by Naomi. What does this passage remind us of?
2. What 3 things connect Ruth 3:3 to these verses? Read: Eph 5:21-27, Acts 1:8, Eph 1:13-14 Rev 19:6-8
3. What kind of a picture do these verses in scripture tell us about feet regarding our own walk with Jesus? John 11:32, John 12:3, Luke 10:39, Eph 6:15, Romans 10:15
4. Vs. 6 Ruth is taking a big risk in going down to the threshing floor. She does not bow to fear, but boldly and appropriately asks Boaz to take her as his wife. Is there something that God is asking of you today that may be causing fear to rear it’s ugly head? Psalm 27:1-4 Psalm 46 What comfort has God given us through this part of His love letters to us to stand fast and be bold?

“Even to this present day, when a Jew marries a woman, he throws the skirt or end of his tallith over her, to signify that he has taken her under his protection.” (Clarke)

5. vs. 7-9 We saw the definition of wing last week as an extremity, of a bird, a wing; of a garment, a flap; the earth, a quarter; a building, the pinnacle. God gives us more pictures of this flap in the following passages. Ezek 16:8, Matt 14:36, I Sam 24, Matt 15:33-41 What are they?
6. On Shabbat the Hebrew husband and wife will sing over each other, and over their children the following blessings.
Read what the husband sings over his wife Proverbs 31
Read what the wife sings over her husband Psalm 1
Might you be singing a new song soon? :)

7. Compare Ruth 3:9 with 2:12. How are they related?

8. Dating verses God's picture of getting to know someone before marriage are evident in this book. There was no immorality mentioned on the threshing floor, and Naomi reminded Ruth, not to get the wrong guy! Before this bold, culturally appropriate risk taking, they were never alone. How might this help the unmarried's view on future relationships? What are some of the attributes portrayed in this chapter of a a godly spouse?

9. Compare the term of impending doom, with a happy ending "it came to pass" in vs. 8, with vs 13. What is the author making clear here?

10. vs. 17-18 To the Hebrews, numbers in scripture are always significant. Six measure of barley, estimated at about 75 pounds. In those days, that was better than a box of chocolates! This can go in one ear and out the other to an American reader, except to show the strength of Ruth.

Read Genesis Chapter 1 What happened and how long did it take?

Read Genesis Chapter 2:1-3 What happened?

The chaff has been separated from the grain, at this time of harvest.
The man who owns the field, who is kind and generous, who is willing and able to redeem, will speak out on his future bride's behalf.
The man in whose name is strength, and strong of character, will not set the future events in motion until he knows the heart and love of his future bride.
She washed, anointed and prepared her garments to bow at his feet.
She now waits.....for her future Bridegroom to act on her behalf.

The tension is building!

We end the chapter with a potential problem: A kinsman closer than Boaz!

Uh-oh. Ruth just "proposed" to Boaz and now she might end up as someone else's wife.

What's a girl to do?

***Naomi replied,
"Be patient my daughter, until you learn how this works out,
because the man won't rest until he finishes everything today." ISV***