

Ruth 3: Trusting God's Timing and Provision

Ruth 3 is a turning point in Ruth's story. Up to this point, she had been working hard in the fields, faithfully providing for herself and Naomi. Now, Naomi saw an opportunity for Ruth to move into a new season of life—one where she would have rest, security, and a future.

This chapter teaches us about **trusting God's plan, stepping out in faith, and waiting on His perfect timing.**

Naomi's Guidance: Taking a Step of Faith

Naomi, as a wise and caring mother-in-law, wanted to see Ruth settled and secure. She said:

"My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?" (Ruth 3:1)

Naomi recognized that Boaz, as a family redeemer (*goel*), had the right to marry Ruth and provide for her. But Ruth had to **take a step of faith**—she had to put herself in a position to receive Boaz's protection.

So, Naomi instructed Ruth to:

1. **Prepare herself** – Wash, put on perfume, and dress in her best clothing.
2. **Position herself** – Go to the threshing floor, where Boaz would be working late.
3. **Wait for the right moment** – After Boaz had finished eating and drinking, Ruth was to uncover his feet and lie down.

This was not a seductive act but a **humble request for protection and redemption**. In that culture, uncovering a man's feet was a way of symbolically asking for his covering and care.

Personal Application:

- There are times when we must **actively prepare for what God has next**. Just as Ruth washed and dressed for this moment, we must prepare ourselves spiritually, mentally, and even physically for what God has planned.
- **Taking a step of faith is often necessary**. Ruth could have stayed where she was, waiting for something to happen. But she followed Naomi's guidance, trusting that God would work through Boaz. Sometimes, we must step out of our comfort zone in obedience.
- **God's provision often requires both trust and action**. Faith is not just sitting back and hoping for the best—it's trusting God while also moving forward when He calls us.

Boaz's Response: A Picture of Christ's Redemption

When Ruth approached Boaz in the night, he was startled to find her at his feet. She then made a bold request:

"Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative." (Ruth 3:9)

Ruth was essentially asking Boaz to fulfill his role as a **kinsman-redeemer** (*goel*), marrying her and securing her future. This act required great humility on Ruth's part—she wasn't demanding, but instead, she humbly placed herself under his care.

Boaz's response was full of grace and kindness:

"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." (Ruth 3:10)

Boaz was honored that Ruth had chosen him rather than chasing after younger men. He recognized her virtue, her faithfulness to Naomi, and her willingness to trust God's plan. He assured her that he would fulfill the role of redeemer—but he also revealed that there was a closer relative who had the first right to redeem her.

Still, he promised her that he would take care of everything.

Personal Application:

- **Boaz is a picture of Jesus, our Redeemer.** Just as Boaz covered Ruth with his protection, Jesus covers us with His grace. He takes us in, provides for us, and gives us security.
- **God's favor follows faithfulness.** Ruth wasn't chasing after status or wealth—she was faithfully serving Naomi and trusting in God's plan. Because of this, she found favor in Boaz's eyes.
- **God's timing requires patience.** Boaz was willing to redeem Ruth, but there was a process that had to take place first. Often, we want things to happen immediately, but God works through proper order and timing.

Waiting on God: Naomi's Wisdom

Before Ruth returned home, Boaz sent her away with six measures of barley—a sign that he would take care of her and Naomi. When she arrived home, Naomi, with her wisdom and experience, told her:

"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." (Ruth 3:18)

Naomi knew that once Boaz made a commitment, he would follow through. She told Ruth to **wait and trust**—Boaz would take care of the rest.

Personal Application:

- **After stepping out in faith, there is a time to wait.** Many times, we want to rush things. But Naomi's advice reminds us that **once we've done our part, we must allow God to do His.**
- **Trust that God is working behind the scenes.** Ruth didn't need to manipulate the situation—Boaz would handle everything. Similarly, when we surrender to God, we can trust that **He is working things out for our good.**

- **Rest in God's promises.** Instead of worrying, Ruth could rest knowing that Boaz had her best interests at heart. Likewise, we can rest knowing that Jesus, our Redeemer, will take care of us.

Conclusion: Walking in Faith and Trusting God's Plan

This chapter beautifully illustrates **how God works through faith, obedience, and His divine plan.**

- **Like Ruth, we must be willing to step out in faith.** She took a bold step in approaching Boaz, just as we must trust God's leading in our lives.
- **Like Boaz, Jesus is our Redeemer.** He covers us with His grace, secures our future, and provides what we could never obtain on our own.
- **Like Naomi, we must learn to wait on God's timing.** After we've obeyed, we must trust that He will work out the details.

Whatever season you are in—whether taking steps of faith, waiting for God's provision, or trusting in His redemption—know that **He is faithful.** Your story is not over, and just like Ruth, you are under the loving care of your Redeemer.