

Rest

Ruth 3:1-6

Introduction:

1. Ruth represents a growing child of God and she finds that her lot is continually improving
2. Although she had already found much improvement, it was nothing to compare with what she was about to receive
3. She was about to marry the mightiest man in Bethlehem
 - a. In this chapter the marriage begins to come into the limelight
 - b. In 1:9 marriage was referred to as “rest”
 - c. It signified a peaceful and well-secured condition of having a husband
 - d. Unmarried women in Bible days had little status, security or substance

I. Ruth's Redeemer Can Supply Rest – vs 1

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?

A. The Gleaning is Over

1. Ruth has been gleaning all through the barley / wheat harvests
 - a) *Once the harvest is completed then no more gleaning*
 - b) *Something more permanent had to be done to provide for Ruth/N*

B. Naomi Is Concerned for Ruth's Well-Being

1. Ruth has found grace in the eyes of Boaz and now Naomi sets out to find rest for her daughter-in-law
 - a) *Naomi is seeking Ruth's well-being*
 - b) *She wants Ruth to be able to settle down with a home / husband*
 - c) *Rest here involves a contentment in life, a deep satisfaction in life, peace of heart and soul*
2. Love always does that
1Co 13:5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;
3. When Naomi was away from God, she had given bad advice to the daughters-in-law
 - a) *She told them to go back to Moab to find peace*
 - b) *Moab was a place that was cursed of God*
 - c) *It was a place without God*
 - d) *It was a place that rejected God*
4. Naomi helping Ruth here is an excellent to all mothers
5. As Naomi did for Ruth, so every mother ought to look out for the well-being of her daughter - especially in the matter of finding a life partner for her
6. Ruth is an example of submission and humility of a daughter to her mother

c. Our Rest

1. Our peace is not in this world and the things of this world
2. Money cannot give peace and rest
 - a) *The Chicago Tribune told the story of Jeff Ferrera of Waukegan, IL. He was reconciling his checkbook and called the First National Bank of Chicago to get his current balance. The electronic voice said, "Your primary checking account currently has a balance of \$924,844,204.32. Ferrera was one of 826 customers who were almost billionaires for a day because of the biggest error in the history of U.S. banking. Even that much money cannot bring peace and rest.*
 - b) *Millionaire Jay Gould said when dying, "I suppose I am the most miserable man on earth."*
3. Fame and popularity do not bring peace and rest
Judy Garland was the child star who became a superstar at the age of 17 in the "Wizard of Oz." By 1948 she was the leading movie musical actress. But even with her success, life appeared to be missing something. At the age of 18 she was seeing a psychiatrist. At the age of 28 she attempted suicide. She had four failed marriages. She was addicted to uppers to perform and downers to sleep. She was found locked in her bathroom by her fifth husband, sitting with her head slumped over in her lap. Doctors said that she died of a self overdose of sleeping pills. Her daughter, Liza Minelli, said in a statement shortly after her mother's death, "It wasn't suicide, it wasn't sleeping pills, it wasn't cirrhosis. I think she was just tired."
4. Our Redeemer will supply rest for us

II. Ruth's Redeemer is Boaz – vs 2

2 And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor.

A. Boaz is the Near Redeemer

1. Naomi has already mentioned that Boaz is the near redeemer
Ru 2:19 And her mother in law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned to day? and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And she shewed her mother in law with whom she had wrought, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought to day is Boaz. 20 And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the LORD, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen.
2. Here Naomi mentions this again
3. Ruth might not have understood the significance of Boaz being a near-kinsman

B. Four Things the Kinsman was Required to Do

1. Deut 25:5 – the kinsman was to marry the childless widow and raise up children in the name of the dead kinsman
2. Lev 25:25 - he was to redeem the sold inheritance of his poor kinsman
3. Lev 25:47-49 - he was to ransom his poor kinsman who had fallen into bondage by paying the price of redemption
4. Deut 19:12; Num 5:5-8 - a kinsman was to avenge a trespass against another kinsman especially a slain kinsman

C. Ruth Must Enter into a Personal Relationship with the Redeemer

1. Before Ruth can have rest, she must enter into a personal relationship with Boaz the redeemer
2. Before we can have the peace of God, we must enter into a personal relationship with our Redeemer

D. The Winnowing Process

1. The winnowing process would begin that night
2. A sled pulled by an animal will be driven over the grain
3. This will loosen the wheat from the chaff
4. In the gentle evening breeze shovel fulls of grain will be tossed into the air and the chaff will be blown into another pile
5. The grain falls to the floor and the chaff blows away

III. Ruth Prepares to Meet Her Redeemer – vs 3-4

- Naomi wanted Ruth to be adequately prepared for this encounter with Boaz so it would lead to a successful result

A. What to Do – vs 3

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.

1. Cleansing - vs 3a
 - a) *This is basic but very important*
 - b) *This is more than just personal hygiene*
 - c) *Naomi told Ruth to prepare as a bride prepares for a wedding*
 - d) *If we want a deeper, closer relationship with our Lord we must cleanse ourselves*
 - (1) *2Co 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*
 - (2) *1Jo 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
 - (3) *2Co 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*
 - e) *Even genuine believers need to be washed - Jn 13*
2. Anointing - vs 3b
 - a) *Anointings were for a number of different reasons in Biblical times*
 - b) *This was not for healing, but perfume*
 - c) *Our lives need to be under the control of the Holy Spirit*
3. Clothing - vs 3c
 - a) *She had to put off the clothing of the grieving widow and put on the clothes of a wedding*
 - b) *Her clothes were to reflect her mission*
 - c) *If Ruth had failed to dress up here it might have said that she was not that interest*
 - d) *Dressing appropriately for the occasion needs to be emphasized today – dress appropriately for church*
 - e) *Had Ruth dressed inappropriately it would have shown disrespect to Boaz and when we dress inappropriately for worship it shows disrespect for God*
 - f) *All believers have to put off the old and put on the new*

4. Go to the threshingfloor
 - a) “down” indicates that the farm land was down in the valley more and the city was on the hill
 - b) There is a difference between just knowing and doing
 - c) We must not only know the promises of God, but we must also claim the promises of God
 - d) It was of no use for Ruth to cleanse, anoint and clothe herself but not go to the threshingfloor

B. Where to Go

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.

1. Naomi’s instructions for Ruth continue
 - a) Don’t do anything until he finishes eating and drinking
 - b) A number of workers would be involved in the winnowing of the grain and after the work was done there was a celebration
 - c) Ruth could mingle with those maidens that she had come to know
 - d) Good manners would gain the attention of Boaz
2. Go to the threshingfloor and lie at his feet
 - a) This is not some evil activity
 - b) That Naomi gave these instructions in detail shows us that they were commonly practiced and not considered unholy
 - c) Ruth was to uncover his feet and lie at his feet
 - (1) This was a bold move
 - (2) It would either succeed gloriously or it would fail terribly
 - d) After Ruth had done her part she was to lie at Boaz’ feet in faith
Ps 4:8 I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.
3. He will tell you what to do
 - a) Service will be found at the foot of the Savior
 - b) Those who come humbly to Christ will always have a place of service for Him

IV. Ruth Promises Obedience – vs 5

5 And she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do.

1. Ruth promised to obey all that she had been told
2. It was the custom of the parents to make the marriage arrangements and Naomi helps Ruth understand the customs
3. Naomi's instructions to Ruth indicate that Naomi trusted Boaz' integrity and character
4. Ruth's response reveals her compliant, loving, submissive nature
5. If we want to enter into a deeper relationship with the Lord, we must be willing to do what He instructs us in His Word
6. The sincerity of this promise is seen in vs 6
Ru 3:6 And she went down unto the floor, and did according to all that her mother in law bade her.