

Romance

Ruth 3:7-18

Introduction:

1. Ruth was not content with just the blessings found in the field of Boaz, she also wanted the blessings that were to be found at the feet of Boaz.
2. She wanted more than the blessings - she wanted the blesser
3. She wanted to be more than a worker for Boaz, she wanted to be wife of Boaz
4. Boaz was a near kinsman of Ruth and had the power to redeem the lost inheritance of Naomi
5. The law required that he marry Ruth, and purchase back the inheritance Ruth went to him to ask him to do these things. The question was, "would he do it?"
6. We will see tonight that Boaz agreed gladly to redeem Ruth
7. We saw last time that Naomi give Ruth instructions about approaching Boaz to get him to do the work of the kinsman redeemer
8. Ruth had promised to do all that Naomi had instructed her

I. **Advancing of the Romance – vs 7-9**

- The romance needed to grow from the unspoken stage to the spoken stage

A. **The Patience in the Advancing**

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.

1. Naomi had told Ruth not to go to Boaz until he had finished eating / drinking
2. The eating / drinking came after the winnowing of the grain
3. Going to the threshingfloor was an act of faith for Ruth
 - a) *Ruth did not go to the floor that night to seduce a man or commit some immoral act – she was acting in faith*
 - b) *She had faith that Boaz would do the work of redeemer*
4. Ruth did as Naomi had instructed and waited until Boaz had laid down near
5. This waiting of Ruth required great patience
 - a) *She stayed inconspicuous until the activities were completed*
 - b) *Then she boldly, but properly, approached Boaz to let him know that she wanted him to perform the duty of the kinsman redeemer and marry her*

B. **The Prudence in the Advancing – vs 7b**

1. She Came Softly
 - a) *Ruth was very prudent in her actions in this situation*
 - b) *“Softly” means that she went quietly and cautiously so as to not disturb either Boaz or someone else*
 - c) *What Ruth was doing did not need public attention at that time*
2. She Came Submissively
 - a) *Ruth followed the customs of the time just as Naomi had instructed*
 - b) *This was a delicate situation and it was important that Ruth handle everything properly*
 - c) *Any deviation from well-known custom might be interpreted as evil*
 - d) *Maybe she didn’t understand the “whys and wherefores” of this custom, but she obeyed anyway*
 - e) *So it is with God’s commands – we may not completely understand His*

C. *The Perplexity in the Advancing – vs 8-9a*

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? ...

1. The Alarm
 - a) *For a short time Boaz was perplexed*
 - b) *He understood the marriage customs which Ruth was following*
 - c) *He was surprised to have Ruth show up at that time*
 - d) *We know that there was alarm for Boaz was “afraid”*
 - e) *Boaz was sleeping near the grain to protect it from enemies*
2. The Asking – “Who art thou?”

D. *The Petition in the Advancing – vs 9b*

9b ... I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou *art* a near kinsman.

1. First Ruth answered the question of Boaz (who art thou?)
 - a) *Boaz could not tell who was at his feet since it was dark*
 - b) *Her petition would be useless if Boaz didn't know who she was*
 - c) *This would put Boaz at ease*
2. Ruth showed humility here in identifying herself as Boaz' handmaid
 - a) *She is not the stranger anymore - She was not the Moabitess anymore*
 - b) *The request she made – “spread therefore thy skirt...” – figurative language*
 - c) *This language seems strange to us since we have nothing like this*
 - d) *In Eze 16:8 God said that he would spread his skirt over Israel*
 - e) *In Ruth 2:12 – “Under whose wings thou art come to trust”*
 - f) *Kanaph = “wing” This shows covering and protection*
 - g) *This was more than Ruth asking Boaz to cover her with his blanket*
3. She was asking for his protection in performing the work of a near kinsman
 - a) *The literal translation means to spread your wings over your handmaid*
 - b) *Like a mother bird protecting her babies with her wings*
4. “Thou art a near kinsman”
 - a) *She used the word “goel” and Boaz understood what she wanted*
 - b) *This was a proposal for marriage*
 - c) *It was not easy to be a kinsman redeemer and Ruth did not know what the answer would be*
 - d) *Boaz could not see her face in the darkness, but he understood what she was doing*
5. Those who come to the Lord for salvation must come humbly and submissively and needfully and expectantly

II. *Assurance for the Romance – vs 10-15*

- Once Ruth identified herself and told her reason for being there Boaz' alarm ceased -- He responded to her in a way that expressed assurance

A. *The Praise in the Assurance*

1. Character of the Praise – vs 10a

10a And he said, Blessed be thou of the LORD...

 - a) *Boaz desired that Ruth would be blessed of God for her coming to Boaz and seeking him for a husband*
 - b) *Boaz thought that Ruth was worthy of divine praise for her actions*
 - c) *God's praise is the highest praise*
 - d) *That is the praise that we should desire – not man's praise*
 - e) *We should live lives that would gain God's commendation*

2. Courting in the Praise – vs 10b

10b ... my daughter...

- a) *These were words of endearment*
- b) *Boaz did not call her “my handmaid”*
- c) *Ruth would know that there were romantic feelings in Boaz*
- d) *Today a man might say, “darling, or sweetheart or honey”*

3. Cause of the Praise – vs 10c

a) *Praise for Ruth’s Progress*

10c ...for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning...

- (1) *Ruth was showing more kindness to her late husband in the latter end than when she first married him*
- (2) *She was now seeking to keep his name alive through a kinsman redeemer marriage*
- (3) *Her faith was growing and her kindness was growing*
- (4) *We need to show progress in spiritual areas*
- (5) *We don’t want to be in the nursery or kindergarten in heaven*

b) *Praise for Ruth’s Preference*

10d ...inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich.

- (1) *Boaz was a contemporary of Elimelech -- He was old enough to be Ruth’s father*
- (2) *But because he could be the kinsman redeemer, Ruth sought him instead of a younger man*
- (3) *Her choice was made on character and spirituality*

B. The Promise in the Assurance

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.

1. Comfort in the Promise – “fear not”

- a) *This promise is the strongest assurance that Boaz would do his duty as a redeemer*
- b) *“My daughter” is found here in the promise just as it was in the praise*
- c) *“Fear not” are comforting words of assurance*
- d) *This said that Ruth’s actions were acceptable to Boaz*
- e) *There are 365 “fear nots” in the Bible to comfort us today*

2. Completeness in the Promise – “I will do to thee all”

- a) *Boaz was not making a “half-way” promise*
- b) *He would do all that was necessary*
- c) *Many promise, but do not fulfill*
- d) *This completeness in the promise would be a great assurance to Ruth*

3. Cause of the Promise – “all the city....virtuous woman”

- a) *This is why Boaz is willing to marry Ruth, she was virtuous*
- b) *“Virtuous” has to do with the idea of strength*
- c) *The context tells us if it is physical strength, material strength or character strength*
- d) *This speaks of her moral purity*
- e) *She did not just have a pretty face, but she had many wonderful traits that are needed if a woman will be a good wife*
- f) *These traits were on display because the whole city knew that she was a virtuous woman*
- g) *People observe your lifestyle – they can tell how we live*

C. The Problem in the Assurance

- There was a limit to the amount of assurance that Boaz could give Ruth
- 1. Reason for the Problem – vs 12
 - 12 And now it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I.**
 - a) *Boaz revealed that he wasn't the nearest kinsman*
 - b) *Though he definitely wanted to marry Ruth, this might present a problem*
- 2. Revealing of the Problem
 - a) *We get a glimpse of Boaz' character her*
 - b) *Though he wanted to marry Ruth, he must put character and integrity first*
 - c) *He must let the other man have the first opportunity to marry Ruth*
 - d) *Their marriage might be tainted if Boaz did not follow the law to the letter*
- 3. Rectifying of the Problem – “in the morning” – vs 13 ←
 - a) *Boaz promised to promptly seek out the other kinsman to see if he wanted to marry Ruth*
 - b) *Boaz would have to go to extra trouble to solve this problem*
 - c) *He was willing to expend the effort because he loved Ruth*

D. The Protection in the Assurance – vs 13

- 1. Protection from the Night
 - a) *Boaz took care to protect Ruth after this encounter on the threshing floor*
 - b) *He allowed her to stay the rest of the night instead of sending her home in the middle of the night*
 - c) *There might be wild animals prowling at night*
 - d) *There might be evil men prowling at night*
 - e) *The path might be dangerous at night and she might trip over something and fall*
- 2. Protection for Her Name
 - 14a ...And she lay at his feet until the morning: and she rose up before one could know another...**
 - a) *Ruth left early in the morning when there was enough light to see*
 - b) *But there was not enough light for people to distinguish each other*
 - c) *Boaz did not want Ruth's actions to be misinterpreted*
- 3. Protection of her Nuptials
 - 14b ...And he said, Let it not be known that a woman came into the floor.**
 - a) *If word got out about this encounter it might prejudice the nearer kinsman*
 - b) *Proper behavior is never inappropriate*
 - c) *Always conduct yourself in a manner that is above reproach*

E. The Provision in the Assurance – vs 15

- 1. We don't know how much exactly 6 measures of barley is, but we conclude that it was a considerable amount
- 2. He “laid it on her” – it was a big enough load that she needed help getting it up on her shoulder
- 3. This grain showed again that Boaz was concerned with the needs of Ruth / N
- 4. Though he was wealthy, Boaz was still mindful of the needs of others
- 5. The gift of grain showed commitment – he would do all that he said that he would do
 - a) *The gift of grain showed love to her - love gives*
 - b) *The size of this gift showed that love was great*
 - c) *“God so loved that He gave...”*

III. Assessment of the Romance – vs 16-18

- When Ruth arrived home early in the morning at Naomi's house Naomi assessed Ruth's romantic status

A. Inquiring in the Assessment

16a And when she came to her mother in law, she said, *Who art thou, my daughter?* ...

1. Naomi wanted to find out if the romance was over or if Ruth was indeed betrothed to Boaz
2. The six measures of grain might be a hint to Naomi
3. This is the second time that Ruth has been asked who she was
4. Naomi is obviously very excited at Ruth's prospects
5. Naomi expressed her mother affection for Ruth by calling her "my daughter"

B. Informing in the Assessment

16b ...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.*

1. Ruth responded to Naomi's question by telling her all that went on
2. Boaz had warned Ruth not to indiscreetly tell others about the situation and tell Naomi was not violating that.
3. Ruth had proof of what she said – the grain

C. Instructing in the Assessment

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.*

1. Ruth's Conduct – vs 18a
 - a) *Waiting is hard*
 - b) *Sitting still and waiting is hard to do*
 - c) *Ruth could not do one more thing than what she had already done*
 - d) *If Ruth intruded into the kinsman matter she would only mess it up*
 - e) *Sitting is not to be confused with procrastination and laziness which are sitting when we should be acting*
2. Boaz' Commitment – vs 18b
 - a) *Boaz won't rest till he finishes the matter*
 - b) *This comment of Naomi's was a real compliment about Boaz*
 - c) *This is the way that we need to be.*

Conclusion –

1. Ruth needed a kinsman redeemer
 - a. No amount of character or good family could redeem her
 - b. No amount of personal virtue could redeem her
 - c. No amount of good works could redeem her
 - d. No amount of religious activity could redeem her
 - e. She needed a redeemer who was willing to pay the price to redeem

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.

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.