

Character Study: Ruth
Part 3 – Ruth’s Rest
Ruth 3

What’s happening?

- Naomi knew that Boaz would be a great husband for Ruth, so she sent her back to visit him. (3:1-5)
- After Boaz went to sleep that night, Ruth came and laid down by his feet after she had uncovering them (this was a ceremonial act). Boaz was surprised when he saw Ruth, but he was encouraged by her virtue and wanted to help her. (3:6-11)
- Boaz was willing to take her as his wife in accordance with the Hebrew custom of becoming a kinsman-redeemer (to carry on her family name). However, Boaz knew that she had a closer relative, who would, according to the law, have first rights to marry her if he so desired. Boaz said that if the closer relative did not want to marry her, then he would gladly marry her. (3:12-13)
- Ruth returned to Naomi. Both women were excited and anxious to see what would happen. (3:14-18)

What’s God doing?

> Despite the fact that Naomi had been depressed by her present situation, and despite the fact that Ruth had been uncertain about her future, both women showed faith in God. As a result, God blessed them by providing Ruth a kinsman redeemer who could give her children and carry on the family name.

What’s to learn?

→ Though Naomi, Ruth and Boaz each had their own perspective of the situation, they each were obedient to God in how they handled it. How big of a priority is it for you to be obedient to God and please Him in the various circumstances that come your way?

→ John 15:12 tells us that living for God involves living for others. Examine your life (your dreams, goals, priorities, etc.). Are you self-centered in what you desire to do with your life or do you put others first? Ruth was not self-focused and God blessed her for that. May God bless us as we strive to live for others as well!

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