

A Discreet Proposal (Ruth 3)
Running thru Ruth: Message #4
Dr. John Niemelä

Grace Chapel
INTRODUCTION

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REVIEW

- (1:1–5) While the judges ruled, an Ephrathite family of Bethlehem (Elimelech, Naomi, Mahlon, and Chilion) went to the plains of Moab to escape a food shortage, Elimelech died, Mahlon & Chilion died childless after 10 years of marriage to Moabitesses**
- (1:6–10) Naomi plans to go to Judah alone, wishing God’s blessing on them**
- (1:11–14) Naomi urges Orpah/Ruth to return to Moab, because she is past childbearing; Orpah reluctantly obeyed, but Ruth clung to Naomi**
- (1:15–18) Naomi’s peer pressure, but Ruth’s oath caused her to cease**
- (1:19–22) Naomi and Ruth return & are welcomed, but Naomi is bitter**
- (2:1–3) Ruth sought to glean in the field of one who would allow her and *happened* to find the field of Boaz, a close righteous relative of Elimelech**
- (2:4–7) Boaz came & extended the Lord’s greeting to the workers; his foreman said that Ruth was the Moabite woman who returned w/ Naomi and that she has diligently gleaned after asking permission**
- (2:8–13) Boaz urged Ruth to remain in his protection; she remarked about his grace to her as a foreigner; he spoke of her selflessness towards Naomi and wished for the Lord to reward her**
- (2:14–16) Boaz asked her to join the crew for lunch; she was filled; Boaz commanded the workers to remarkable generosity toward Ruth**
- (2:17–23) Ruth winnowed about 30 lbs. of barley & carried it to their place and gave Naomi leftovers from lunch; Ruth said Boaz is who was so generous; (he did not forget covenant loyalty) so Ruth accepted his protection and *planned* to glean thru barley & wheat harvests**

NEW EXPOSITION

(3:1–6) Naomi's plan to seek security for Ruth

(3:1–2) Naomi plans to seek security for Ruth by contacting Boaz

(3:3–4) Ruth is to groom (after a day of gleaning), go to the threshing floor, but not approach Boaz before he ate & slept, then she is to uncover his feet & await his word

(3:5) Ruth agreed to the plan

(3:7–14) Ruth goes to the threshing floor

(3:6–7) Ruth obeyed the plan, quietly uncovering his feet as he slept after supper

(3:8) Around midnight Boaz awoke & was shocked that a woman slept nearby

(3:9) When he asked her identity, she discretely proposed that he become her legal protection, because he was a close relative of Elimelech

(3:10) Boaz commends Ruth's covenant loyalty for not seeking legal protection (through marriage) apart from providing security for Naomi

(3:11–13) Boaz pledges that Ruth will become legally secure, whether it is Boaz or the nearer relative who provides it, but Ruth is to sleep (knowing that she will be secure)

(3:14) She stayed there until just before dawn and was admonished not to say anything about coming to the threshing floor

(3:15–18) Boaz gave grain to Naomi and Naomi urged Ruth to be content

(3:15) Boaz gave her grain to take to Naomi and she went to Bethlehem

(3:16–17) She told Naomi all that had happened, including that Boaz would not send her empty-handed to Naomi

(3:18) Naomi urged Ruth to be content, knowing that Boaz would diligently insure that she would become legally secure

CONCLUSION