

All That You Say I Will Do

Ruth 3:1-5

We have seen in our study of the first two chapters how a Moabite woman named Ruth met and married a Hebrew man who'd come with his mom (Naomi) and dad (Elimelech) to Moab from Bethlehem ("the house of bread") because a "famine had come to the land." Ruth married the Hebrew man, and over the course of a few years, her husband, her father-in-law, her brother-in-law – literally all the men in her husband's family died. Naomi chooses to go back to Bethlehem and Ruth joins her. Upon arriving, Ruth begins to "glean in the fields" for food, and she catches the eye of a Hebrew man named Boaz (a kinsman of Elimelech). In our text, Naomi tells Ruth how to present herself to her potential Kinsman-Redeemer.

1. Go wash, perfume, and put on your best clothes and go to "the threshing floor" of Boaz.
2. Hide yourself from view until Boaz finishes supper and lies down for sleep (in a field tent).
3. Move silently into the tent Boaz is and "uncover his feet and lie down."

I. "Uncover his feet and lie down" is something difficult to understand in our day (v. 4).

In fact, there has been a great deal of controversy in our day over what this phrase actually means.

A. Some say these instructions involve a sexual act.

A euphemism is "a mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered too blunt."

Ex: "Passed away" instead of died. Hospitals say, "Negative patient outcome" instead of "died."

If you go to the restroom it's "I'm going to powder my nose" or "I'm going to go down the hall."

"Uncovering one's nakedness" (Lev. 18:6) can be a euphemism in the Bible for "sexual relations."

In Judges 3:24, "to cover one's feet" is a euphemism for voiding excrement. Some combine both euphemisms and say "uncovering one's feet" is a polite way of saying Ruth had sexual relations with Boaz. I don't agree. Naomi tells Ruth to "uncover *his feet*" not "uncover *his nakedness*."

B. I say these instructions convey a submissive attitude.

The text says that she "*lay at his feet until morning*" (vs. 13-14). The most natural reading of this text is that Ruth slept at Boaz' feet till morning, that she slept *with Boaz* until morning. We'll see next time - Boaz is "startled" at midnight; Ruth "sleeps" at Boaz feet; Ruth is "secure." (vs. 6-18)

"Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are my guardian-redeemer" (v. 9).

C. All agree that these instructions represent a sacred approach.

Whatever it means, it takes remarkable courage to "go into Boaz' tent" and give him yourself.

Ruth was a foreigner, a Moabite. Boaz was a mighty prince a man of high respect and riches.

In the same manner that Ruth gave herself to Boaz, so too you and I surrender to Jesus Christ.

II. "All that you say I will do" is the key for Ruth becoming Boaz' bride (v. 5).

The future of Ruth's life turned on that one phrase. *All that you say, I will do*. Naomi knew the God of Israel. The things of God were not strange to her. By experience, she knew Yahweh, but not Ruth!

The wings of your Kinsman-Redeemer's protection are found in a willingness to risk all for Him.

The Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas, "*What must I do to be saved*" (Acts 16:31). Think about it.

You must do what Ruth did: Believe in the mercy of the Kinsman-Redeemer and surrender yourself.

III. "Security for you, that it may be well with you" is what the Kinsman provides (v. 1).

Jesus isn't about escaping the hell to come; He's about deliverance from the hell that now is.

"There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death." Proverbs 16:25

Entering the tent of your Kinsman-Redeemer and lying at His feet in complete submission brings a surprising turn of events. We're still talking about Ruth, and your family will be talking of you.