

A Cry for Mercy Always Answered

Ruth 3:6-13

By way of review: Ruth is a Moabite woman who did not know God of Israel, the ways of God, nor the people of God. Like many in American society today, God's Word and God's ways are considered as something foreign. Ruth is a grown woman. She'd been married once in her native land and now was in her late twenties. She needs to find safety and security. She doesn't ask Moabite friends for advice; she asks Naomi. *"Seek not counsel from the ungodly"* (Ps. 1:1). Ruth responds: *"All you say to me, I will do!"*

The counsel is clear. *"Go meet our Kinsman Redeemer"* (Ruth 3:1-5). Kinsman Redemption was God's Law. (see Lev. 25:25). Naomi explained to Ruth the importance of Kinsman Redemption. Safety for Ruth, the daughter-in-law of Naomi, is found in the Kinsman-Redeemer and *"A cry for mercy is always answered."*

I. Ruth's part in her redemption (3:6-9)

Salvation is of grace throughout history. The means by which we enter this grace is the same for all:

A. There is a confession of need – "Who are you?" (v. 9)

"I am Ruth your maid" – The foreigner from Moab. This strange woman had no claim on Boaz.

Notice that "It happened in the middle of the night" (v. 8). Midnight is the hour of judgment.

At midnight, the LORD went throughout Egypt to slay the firstborn of the families (Exodus 11:4).

At midnight, Samson lifted "the city gates," slaying the Gazites who wished to kill him (Judg. 16:2).

At midnight, Paul and Silas experienced an earthquake in prison, a quake that knocked the jailer out. When the jailer awoke, he drew his sword to kill himself because he saw the prison doors and all chains open. Jailers were executed if they lost prisoners (Acts 16:25-27).

At midnight, *"People are shaken and pass away, and the mighty are taken away"* (Job 34:20).

B. There is a cry for mercy – *So spread your covering over your maid*" (v. 9).

The natural reading is a request by Ruth for Boaz to take her as his wife, the ancient custom of covering the female as an act choosing the woman. The Hebrew is, *"Spread your wings over me."*

This is the same phrase used in **Ruth 2** - "May the LORD reward your work, and your wages be full from the LORD, the God of Israel, **under whose wings** you have come to seek refuge" (Ruth 2:12).

"Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of Your wings" (Psalm 17:8). Yahweh will give Divine protecting to anyone who comes under Divine covering, like a hen will her chicks.

C. There is a claim on law – *"For you are a close relative"* (v. 9).

Or literally, *"you are a near kinsman."* Ruth had become familiar with Jewish Law and understood her only hope was for the Law to be fulfilled *on her behalf*. Salvation is always in fulfillment of Law.

II. The Kinsman Redeemer's part in Ruth's redemption (3:10-13).

When God hears a cry for mercy, there is always a response. Blind Bartimeus shouted "Son of David, have mercy!" The people said, "Be quiet." But He cried louder, and "Jesus stood still" (Matt. 20:32).

This is the only time in Scripture that Jesus ever stands still. A cry for mercy always brings a response.

A. The Redeemer commends the wisdom of her choice (v. 10) – "May you be blessed of the LORD."

B. The Redeemer promises to do all that she wants (v. 11) – "I will do for you whatever you ask."

Anything? Yes, according to God's Law. It's a little like, "anything you ask in my Name," I will do.

C. The Redeemer declares her to be woman of virtue (v. 11) – "You're a woman of excellence."

She was a Moabite by nature, but the grace of redemption was now hers. (See I Cor. 6:9-11).

D. The Redeemer is willing, but the Law must be fulfilled (v. 12-13) – *"there is one closer than me."*

Your deliverance from sin and death is built upon God's Law. Jesus fulfilled the Law where we failed it. We deserve to die; He died in our place. The gift He gives us is Life; both now and then.