

Sunday Night Message

March 10, 2018

A Woman of Virtue

Series – *Ruth*

Text – Ruth 3

Introduction

Review Chapters 1 and 2

In chapter three will see how the events trans fold leading up to the marriage of Boaz and Ruth. Up until now, Ruth is merely helping out her mother-in-law. She is being helped by a man who happens to be related to Naomi's late husband (and Ruth's late husband as well). Of course, we also know that God is orchestrating all of these events.

The gospels tell us that these two eventually get married:

"And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias;" - (Matthew 1:5-6)

But, so far, we haven't seen where this relationship was leading.

I Ruth Receives Permission Regarding a Relationship with Boaz (Ruth 3:1 – 5)

Naomi has once again taken up the responsibility of securing a husband for her daughter-in-law.

This takes into consideration the levirate marriage spoken of in Deuteronomy:

"If brethren dwell together, and one of them die, and have no child, the wife of the dead shall not marry without unto a stranger: her husband's brother shall go in unto her, and take her to him to wife, and perform the duty of an husband's brother unto her. And it shall be, that the firstborn which she beareth shall succeed in the name of his brother which is dead, that his name be not put out of Israel. And if the man like not to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate unto the elders, and say, My husband's brother refuseth to raise up unto his brother a name in Israel, he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother. Then the elders of his city shall call him, and speak unto him: and if he stand to it, and say, I like not to take her; Then shall his brother's wife come unto him in the presence of the elders, and loose his shoe from off his foot, and spit in his face, and shall answer and say, So shall it be done unto that man that will not build up his brother's house. And his name shall be called in Israel, The house of him that hath his shoe loosed." - (Deuteronomy 25:5-10)

McGee states that God provided this provision in the law for two reasons:

1. The first was that God wanted to protect women. In other words, God provided help for the woman if her husband died.
2. The second had to do with protecting land rights. The woman would stand to inherit her husband's land, and if she married outside of her husband's family, then the land would leave the family, and possibly even leave the tribe.¹

V. 1 - Notice the reference to rest in v. 1 – Naomi states that Ruth would find rest when Boaz accepts her as his wife. This is also a picture of Christ and His Bride, the Church - when you come unto Christ, you find rest. (Matthew 11:28)

V. 2 – He winnoweth – throwing up the Barley and separating the actual grain from the chaff. This would be done in the threshing floor. Boaz would be there for this important task and also to be there to protect his harvest, once it has been bagged.

V. 3 – the word raiment has the idea of a covering garment, like a coat that would protect against the cool night temperatures.

V. 4 – By doing this, Naomi was telling Boaz that she accepted him as her redeemer. Apparently, because Boaz was from an older generation, he would not make that call on his own. Ruth would have to decide. He indicates so in v. 10.

II Boaz Responds Positively to Ruth's Proposal (vs. 6 – 13)

Notice v. 9 – “spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid”

A reference to marriage –

"Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine." - (Ezekiel 16:8)

This verse specifically references Israel; it specially pictures the Church, the Bride of Christ.

- 1 He conditionally accepts her offer
- 2 He compliments her

v. 11 - Definition of virtue – behavior displaying high moral standards. Synonyms – goodness, decency, integrity, respectability, honor, purity

¹ McGee, J. V. (1997). *Thru the Bible commentary* (electronic ed., Vol. 2, p. 106). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

"A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones." - (Proverbs 12:4)

"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;" - (2 Peter 1:5)

Turn to Proverbs 31:10 – 31

One Bible commentator has pointed out that Ruth compares well with the virtuous woman found in Proverbs 31:

1. Devoted to her family (Ruth 1:15-18 ; Proverbs 31:10-12, 23)
2. Delighting in her work (Ruth 2:2; Proverbs 31:13)
3. Diligent in her labor (Ruth 2:7, 17, 23; Proverbs 31:14-18, 19-21, 24, 27)
4. Dedicated to godly speech (Ruth 2:10, 13; Proverbs 31:26)
5. Dependent on God (Ruth 2:12 ; Proverbs 31:25b, 30)
6. Dressed with care (Ruth 3:3 ; Proverbs 31:22, 25a)
7. Discreet with men (Ruth 3:6-13; Proverbs 31:11, 12, 23)
8. Delivering blessings (Ruth 4:14, 15; Proverbs 31:28]

[MacArthur, John (2006-10-10). The MacArthur Study Bible (Kindle Locations 16142-16151). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.]

III Ruth Returns with Provision and a Promise (vs. 14 – 18)

Ruth returns home with six “measures of barley.” Probably not ephah’s, which would have weighed 200 pounds; possibly six seah’s, which would only have weighed sixty pounds.

The ball is in motion now. Naomi knows that Boaz will act fast.

