

Finding Rest in the Redeemer

Ruth's Romance with Boaz

Ruth 3:1–18

(A story of needing rest)

A Plan for Rest (Ruth 3:1-4) Naomi had a plan didn't she? She was a crafty mother-in-law, looking out for her daughter-in-law. They cared for one another, didn't they? She noticed that Boaz was gracious and generous, and knew that Boaz could possibly be the redeemer of the family.

v. 1- What does Naomi mean about Ruth finding rest? The literal meaning of the Hebrew word "rest" in this context means marriage! The opposite of anxiously rushing, is rest! A place of rest is a home to which Naomi pointed, a home for her daughter's heart. Naomi has a plan for Ruth to find rest in both life and love! Life and love lead us to Christ doesn't it? For life is God's gift, and love is of God's nature. ***"We love, because He first loved us."*** (1 Jn 4:19). This is true of the love in the home as much as of the love of the Church. All pure and unselfish love comes from God and leads to God. The problem is that we're selfish!

Let's relate this to the rest we find in Christ! The beautiful picture of marriage is an illustration of Christ (The Groom) and His bride (The Church). We see this very clearly in Ephesians 5. I have used the example of Matthew 11:28-30, ***"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest..."*** Here is another great example found in Hebrews. I believe the writer of Hebrews shares the correct way to find rest. Hebrews 4:1-2 states: ***"Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened."*** They never found rest because they never had faith! Maybe they liked the idea of rest, redemption, and security in God, but they were never able to surrender everything to God! They were dating God, but never fully surrendering, fully trusting, fully placing all their faith in Christ as the only redeemer. Sounds a lot like American Christianity doesn't it? There are many dating God, but few who have truly trusted Him with everything! To truly find rest in Christ, you must surrender everything to Christ! (Marriage example).

A Proposal for Restoration (Ruth 3:5-15) We see in the former verses Naomi's plan for Ruth to find rest, both in life and in love. In these verses we see that plan being carried in an actual proposal! Ruth acts upon Naomi's plan. She trust Naomi and believes that this is what is best! Ruth is desperate! When we are desperate, we take action! Many people don't want restoration or renewal because they are not desperate! Many become prideful and even comfortable in a bad situation that is not a part of from God's plan. (A frog becomes

comfortable in a boiling pot). Comfort can be the main killer of obedience to God! Churches have seen a downward spiral in attendance after Covid-19. When you start to miss church you become comfortable with missing church! Don't get comfortable, get restored by Christ! Look at verse 9, here is the proposal ***"Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer."*** Ruth is asking Boaz to marry her! In verse 12, Boaz is sharing with Ruth that there is a person that is of closer relation to Mahlon, (Ruth's late husband), that would preserve Mahlon's property. According to Hebrew law in Lev. 25, it mandates the order of the rank of kinsman-redeemers. In this case, another individual had the first pick before Boaz. Look at verse 15, the barley she receives is a symbol of restoration, a symbol of the fruit to come! When we are baptized, it's a symbol of God's restoring love for us, by His work done on the cross! Romans 6:3-4 states: ***"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."***

A Promise of Redemption (Ruth 3:16-18) A redeemer is literally someone who *"causes life to return,"* a restorer of life! Boaz helps Ruth return to life and the barley that Boaz gave to Ruth was a symbol of the promise of redemption. Although, you and I haven't inherited Heaven yet, our salvation is a promise of what is to come! The Holy Spirit seals this with peace! We will see this clearly in Chapter 4, but this passage alludes to the promise to come. Look with me at verse 18, ***"...for the man will not rest but will settle the matter today."*** The passage we are examining today begins with Ruth needing rest and it ends with Boaz not resting until Ruth finds rest! What love has the Lord God shown to us? Romans 5:8 ***"but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."***

Have you found rest in the redeemer, Jesus Christ? When the Word of God is preached, it demands a response! How will you respond?