



THE PROPOSAL

Ruth 3:1–18

RELATED SCRIPTURES

Ruth 1–2 | Psalm 91:1–16 | Romans 8:31–32

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 6.23.24

SUMMARY

Readers of the book of Ruth will often describe it as a love story, and while it certainly is, it's anything but a typical love story. Several uncommon events occur in the narrative, both from the modern and historical perspectives. Upon the realization that Boaz is a family member, Naomi formulates a plan for Ruth to propose to Boaz. Naomi's plan is somewhat ambiguous, involving approaching Boaz after a long day of work and having her "uncover his feet and lie down" (Ruth 3:4). This is altogether uncommon; moreover, Ruth is a foreigner. Boaz previously warned Ruth that her presence alone could put her at risk (Ruth 2:8–9). How much more danger could she open herself to by presenting herself to a man in the middle of the night? Ruth proceeds with the plan; however, there is no ambiguity in her actions. When she lies at the feet of Boaz and wakes him, she makes her intentions known immediately, asking Boaz to "Spread your wings over your servant," which effectively asks him to marry her. Ruth invoked a stipulation in the law that required a next-of-kin to redeem a family member who had fallen into debt or lost their husband in death; however, Boaz wasn't a direct next-of-kin and had no legal obligation to do anything for Ruth. Nevertheless, Boaz obliged and pledged his care for her and by extension, Naomi as well. However, an obstacle remained—a family member with a greater legal obligation to redeem Naomi and Ruth. Despite this, Boaz promises to see the process through and ensure her care. As a parting gift before Ruth returns home for the evening, Boaz gives her an abundance of barley, symbolic of his covenant to care for Ruth and Naomi.

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Ruth 3:1–18.

Ruth chapter three is replete with sacrificial behavior. In what ways was Ruth sacrificial for Naomi's sake? In what ways was Boaz sacrificial for Ruth's sake? How does both Ruth's and Boaz's behavior parallel what Christ does for his followers?

What motive might Boaz have to redeem Ruth? How do Boaz's actions point us to the love of our Heavenly Father?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.