

Day 36

- Okay, so now, things get really interesting in the book of Ruth. Ruth obeyed all of Naomi's wisdom, and she finished the whole harvest of barley and wheat with Boaz's young women.
- So now, Naomi is ready to take the next step into helping Ruth secure complete blessing and covering, for she loves her very much.
- She tells her, "Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do." Ruth 3:2-4.
- Okay, "he is winnowing barley tonight," Naomi is saying, it is the end of harvest time. Boaz is bringing the full harvest into the storehouses. Now is the time for you to be redeemed, my daughter. God wants us to see how He works within His times and seasons. Just as Ecclesiastes 3:1 states, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." The LORD, God in His system of government, is always turning, always moving through times and seasons. He is the generator of all life and all that makes life move through time and space. That is why in Daniel 2:21 we learn only God can change times and seasons, for He is the Creator of everything. Naomi recognizes a time and a season, and she tells Ruth to sanctify and anoint herself, then put on her best garment and go before her Kinsman Redeemer, for the harvest of blessing Ruth and Naomi sowed into has come.
- Ruth, washing and anointing herself and then putting on her best garment, is getting ready to present herself to her possible future husband. To anoint herself, to consecrate herself, means to be fully cleansed and set apart as sacred, having her eyes set on Boaz, her Kinsman Redeemer. Consecration is a complete dedication to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; it is a living action of Romans 12:1 — In view of Your mercy, God, I choose to offer my body, my life as a living, breathing, consecrated sacrifice, holy and pleasing to You, O God — this offering is my spiritual act of true worship of You. All that I have and am, I fully give to You. That's consecration.
- Boaz, like our Lord Jesus, would recognize that action, and it would greatly bless him and move him to action.
- Then Naomi said to Ruth, "Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do."
- Okay, for most of us, unless we are Jewish or know Jewish tradition, we are all probably staring and blinking, like, what? What just happened here? What's up with the uncovering of the feet? Naomi, what are you telling Ruth to do? Okay, we will go through it step by step with Holy Spirit, and see what He shows us.
- Here we go; I am going to do my best to explain. Naomi is instructing her in a way that will lead to the marriage of Ruth to Boaz, which would enable her to be under his protection always, and graft her permanently into the line of Jesus Christ.
- When Ruth uncovered Boaz' feet and laid down by them, she was showing submission to him, and showing him that she wished to offer herself in marriage. It represents a beautiful, chaste act of holiness. Much like Mary Magdalene anointing Jesus' feet with the costly oil of spikenard, and wiping His feet with her hair, as if saying, I offer all that have to You, my LORD My King. I'm pouring myself out as a drink offering before You. You are my life, my covering, my Husband. (John 12:3; Philippians 2:17; Romans 12:1). All Ruth had to offer Boaz was herself.
- Boaz, startled awake, noticed a woman at his feet, "And he said, "who are you?" So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative." Ruth 3:8-9.
- Now, scripture doesn't say here, but Ruth, whether aware or not, is speaking prophetically. Maybe the same prophetic words that ran through King David's heart much later, ran through

Ruth's heart in that moment. "Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me under the shadow of Your wings." Psalm 17:8, and again in Psalm 91:4 "He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler."

- Her actions and her words speak volumes to Boaz' heart, for he understood not just as a Hebrew man, but even more so as a Kinsman Redeemer.
- "He said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich. And now, my daughter, do not fear, I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman." Ruth 3:10-11.
- Several things jump out to me here. Hopefully, they are jumping out at you as well. Remember when Boaz told her to stay close to his young men? Well, as we read this scripture we see that he was, in a sense, presenting her to them as a viable mate to marry. Yet, Ruth had heeded her mother-in-law's wisdom and stayed close to the young women, as well as not going into any other field. In that, everyone in the community saw that she was a virtuous woman.
- When Boaz said, "you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning," he means, as offering herself to be his bride, an older man, she was showing him great kindness.
- I may be stretching here, but I find this verse fascinating, and I want to step back and look at its possible much bigger picture. If we are to say Boaz is representing Jesus, our Redeemer, who is also our Bride Groom, then He is saying our passion and kindness for Him (Jesus) will be greater at the end than it was at the beginning. Could it be because we finally realize How great our God is? Do we finally realize that we have an enemy, and he is a liar, and has been lying to us the whole time, trying to distort our view of God? Could our great kindness be turning fully to Jesus because not only do we see Him for who He is, but we long to show Him our complete and total love of Him? Will, we as the whole Church, the Bride of Christ finally fulfill our corporate destiny of Proverbs 31?
- "Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is **the law of kindness.**" Proverbs 31:25-26.
- Kindness is a law...well, that is worth doing a study through scripture to find the harvest for sowing kindness. Whatever that harvest is, Boaz saw it in Ruth, and it gave him a desire to have her as his own.
- Now, I'm positive there is more here that I don't see yet, but we will move on.
- "It is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you — good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the LORD lives! Lie down until morning." Ruth 3:12-13.
- In Jewish law, if a family member is presented for redemption, or property is presented for redemption, the closest relative is offered the opportunity first. If he refuses, then it goes to the next closest relative. When Boaz said, "as the LORD lives!", he is stating that God's governing system of Seed, Plant, Harvest is fully alive here. Ruth has seeded into a good harvest in all her words, actions, and deeds starting with her declaration to stay with Naomi, stating Naomi's people and God would be her people and her God.
- Okay, we will stop here today and pick up tomorrow with Boaz and the other kinsman redeemer. I hope you are seeing even more and more, how God weaves Himself, His love for us, the perfect plan of sending His Son Jesus for the salvation of the world, and His foundational plan of always planning to graft us gentiles into His vine, into Himself.
- Until tomorrow, I speak God's blessings over you, for His blessing of peace to fill you, His blessing of insight and clarity to wash over you, and His heart to become your heart. Be encouraged for our amazing God is the One True God! The One Who takes away the sin of the world!