

When a young woman without a home or future followed in the footsteps of faith to return to the harvest fields of a kinsman-redeemer, she found her life transformed. Like her, God calls us to the mighty provisions of our own Redeemer and learn how to harvest a future satiated and satisfied with God's best.

Return, Growth, Transformation and Maturity in the Harvest Fields of the Lord.

Theme: Seeing the allegory in the book of Ruth of the soul's progress into maturity by following our spirit in returning to the House of God for marriage to Christ.

REVIEW:

- ▶ CHAPTER 1: Naomi's family leave Bethlehem to wander in Moab. God leads her to Faith and Repentance to RETURN to God.
- ▶ CHAPTER 2: Ruth is instructed to glean in the fields of Boaz (Christ), to FEED and FELLOWSHIP and grow strong.

Chapter Three:

Finding Transforming Rest

(Principle of Abiding and Indwelling Union)

Ruth 3: 9-13 (NIV) ⁹"I am your servant Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer." ¹⁰"The LORD bless you, my daughter," he replied. ¹¹And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask... ¹³Stay here for the night... as surely as the LORD lives I will do it. Lie here until morning."

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Ruth chapter 3 takes place in the **THRESHING FLOOR**, where barley is transformed into useable meal.
 - In Boaz' hands the chaff of our life is removed and the pure "seed" of God's life is made useful for bread for all to eat!
 - Luke 3:16-18
- B. This chapter moves us into **INTIMACY** with Boaz (Christ).
 - Ruth dwells at Boaz's feet, not leaving His side.
 - This is the principle of ABIDING in Christ (John 15:4-5)
- C. Ruth moves into a **New Position** with Boaz: Betrothal.
 - Ruth covers herself with the corner of His garment (called "the wing" – see Ruth 2:12; 1:9).
 - This action implied coming into the covering of covenant provision.
- D. **Spiritual Growth reaches its highest point when we enter into deep and intimate union with Christ in our will.**
 - Ruth decides: I will MARRY you and refrain from running after the other "young men". (3:9-10).
 - "All true religion lies in the will of the spirit."
- E. **Spiritual Growth is BOTH the activity of God and us: God works in us and we work out what He is working in us:** (Phil. 2:12-13).
 - In Ruth chapter three we two important ingredients to our Growth:
 - 1) *A Diligent Pressing for something deeper than external relationship*
 - 2) *The Intimacy of God that is drawing us into a fuller Rest.*
- F. The greatest spiritual advancements happen when God's Intimate working in us is met in us with an unswerving diligence to obtain all He has.
- G. Ruth chapter three takes place in the Threshing floor of Boaz in the night. (It is symbolic of discovering the inner union we find with God in the "night" of pure faith and the Intimate working of God we find there).

Message in a Nutshell...

Ground:

Every believer has, in their spirit, an Intimate Union with Christ
(like Ruth sought with Boaz in chapter 3)

Path:

If we will press into this union by faith...

Fruition

We will discover Christ Himself working to transform us with all
His riches.

THE INTIMACY OF GOD IS IN OUR SPIRIT AND WILL
TRANSFORM US BY...

1. DRAWING US INTO THE LIVING HOPE OF ENTERING CHRIST'S REST.

Ruth 3:1-4 (NIV) *"My daughter, should I not try to find a home (Heb. = 'Find Rest') for you, where you will be well provided for?"*

- A. (3:1) Naomi Desires Ruth to have a Husband and a HOME: To enter REST!
- No longer a servant's position, but a wife at Boaz' side
 - Ruth 2:13
 - John 15:15 – *"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."*
- B. (3:2) Boaz is a Kinsman Redeemer (A type of Christ having the position and power to save us).
- Kinsman- Redeemer law: Deut 25:5-6

- C. Transformation requires us to be drawn into Christ's REST – the place where He is EVERYTHING to us.
- Heb. 4:1, 9-11
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- D. The Lord will give us a Spirit-inspired "unrest" in our soul to pursue and enter into a fuller REST.
- Go from servant to son; worker to wife.
 - Song 1:4
- E. (3:3) We need our spirits to be PREPARED and beautified to SEEK GOD.
- 1 Peter 3:3; Rev. 19:7-8
 - Our spirits are beautified with the content of Christ.
 - We cloth ourself with Christ to attract ourselves to Christ.
- F. (3:4) The place our spirit draws us is to the FEET of Christ in Faith-Surrender.

2. DEVOTING US TO FOLLOW THE BOLD INSTRUCTION OF OUR SPIRIT.

Ruth 3:5-6 (NIV) *"I will do whatever you say," Ruth answered.'*

- A. Ruth (our spirit) obeys the instruction of Naomi (our soul) to pursue Boaz.
- If you live after your soul alone, you will have no interest in Christ. Instead your living will revolve around your own thoughts, feelings, emotions, reactions, interests, etc.
 - But if you live after your spirit, your soul will orbit around desire for God.

- Naomi can not have direct contact with Boaz, but Ruth can on her behalf.
- Naomi (soul) will enter into the benefits obtained by Ruth (spirit).

- B. Rom. 8:16. We must come to depend on our spirit in the spiritual life as it is the place the Spirit of God leads, instructs and testifies to us.
- Many sincere Christians have not even begun their spiritual growth journey because they have never put their spirit in first place as Christ's representative in them.
- C. Spiritual growth requires that we put our spirit in charge of our life.
- **Rom 8:12-14.**
- D. Ruth is acting in obedience to the will of Naomi.
- It requires faith to put our spirit first and walk after our spirit. But our spirit will take us to Boaz and His provisions!

3. DRIVING US TO PRESS TOWARDS OUR FULL STATURE IN CHRIST.

Ruth 3:7-9 (NIV) - "Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down"

- A. Ruth draws near to Boaz to seek for herself the fullness of Covenant Privileges.
- B. **Eph. 4:13.** Every Christian has the promise of coming into the FULL STATURE of Christ and become the Bride of Christ.

- A Bride has to "come of age" before she can be legally married.
- Salvation was God's invitation to marry Christ; but have you "grown up" and come of age for the actual marriage? (Rev. 19:7-8)

- C. Growth requires us to possess a "PRESS" into appropriating the things of Christ. (God honours a bold pursuit of faith).
- Phil. 3:12, 14
 - Everything is done for us in Christ, but it requires personal appropriation of these things to enter into them.
- D. (v.7-8). The uncovering of Boaz' feet and the spreading of the Garment over her is a request for Marriage UNION.
- Christ is our new garment: Luke 5:36
 - We need a wedding garment: Matt 22:11-12
- E. (v.9) Ruth is OBLIGATING Boaz to fulfill His Covenant responsibilities to the fullest.

4. DELIGHTING US WITH HIS FAITHFUL WORK ON OUR BEHALF.

Ruth 3:10-17 (NIV) "And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask"

- A. Boaz takes up His responsibility to bring Ruth into Rest.
- Our part is faith and obedience to His Spirit. His part is to do the work.
 - We enter spiritual rest by faith in Christ.
- B. Grace means resting in God's work for us, not our work for God.

C. We get more done “Laying at His feet” than we do in all our self-effort!

- *¹⁴So she lay at his feet until morning....”*
- Spiritually we cease from our own labour and enter into God’s working. This is the true spiritual path.
- Heb 4:10 - There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. 10For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.

D. We see the Inner working of Christ typified by Boaz’s actions:

1. (v.10). He Encourages righteousness and good character in us.
2. (v.11). He responds to our deepest prayers.
3. (v.12). Reveals Himself to us as what we need.
4. (v.13). He encourages us to stay through dark nights of faith.
5. (v.14). He calls us to have a secret History with Him.
6. (v.15). He fills us with resurrection life.
7. (v16). He goes to prepare a place for us in His city.

E. (v.17). We receive much from Christ (“six measures of barley”) when we live in Union with Him. We come to appreciate His secret working in our spirit.

5. HAVE US DEPEND ON HIS DEEPER WORKING.

Ruth 3:18 (NIV) *“Wait, my daughter... For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.”*

A. Ruth is asked to wait patiently for Boaz to finish His secret work of bringing her into UNION.

- Isa. 40:31; Ps 27:14; 37:7;
- Psalm 130:5-8

B. Growth is always by faith in the work of Christ.

- Rom 1:17

C. (v18a). We must learn the lesson of “STAY HERE” upon faith. *(Sometimes in growth we best move ahead by waiting upon the Lord!)*

D. (v.18b). The Spirit of Christ in us will not rest until we are brought into full redemption.

CONCLUSION

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