



LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF RUTH

## #4. **BE STILL...**

*"Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not **seek security** for you, that it may be well with you?"*

*Then she said, "**Sit still**, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out..." Ruth 3:1, 18*

*These two verses serve as the bookends to Ruth 3 and are what set the tone for me as I pondered what God might be saying to us today through this scripture. (2 Timothy 3:15-17)*

*This is a story of active trust; the kind of trust that only comes from knowing who our God is and what He requires. The lives of Naomi,*

*Ruth and Boaz are a testimony to God's faithfulness toward those who know Him and walk in His ways. This chapter again highlights the fact that we are to know our God, walk (take action) in the way that He leads and wait for Him to do all the rest. When we learn this, we truly find that place of rest & security; the sweet spot of God's purpose for our lives. To BE still really does not have anything to do with physical activity or lack of it. It has everything to do with the posture of our minds & hearts. When we have the right perspective of God & who He is toward us, we can BE still even in the busiest of seasons. `Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.` Matthew 11:29*

WHEN WE ARE TRULY WALKING & FOLLOWING IN HIS WAYS AND TRUSTING HIM, WE ARE NO LONGER GOING AGAINST THE CURRENT OF HIS WILL. WE FIND EASE AND PEACE WHEN WE ARE MOVING IN THE DIRECTION THAT HE IS MOVING.

## CHAPTER 3 IN A NUTSHELL...

Naomi advises Ruth to approach Boaz (in a very strategic manner) asking him to consider taking on the responsibility of being her kinsman-redeemer... marrying her to carry on Elimilech's family line. Ruth takes up the challenge and Boaz responds favourably to it, promising to resolve the matter before the new day comes to a close.

## 1. SEEK SECURITY

**NAOMI MAKES A SUGGESTION...** shall I not seek security...

What great love Naomi had for Ruth!

The Hebrew word for security in this verse (in NKJV) is the same one that is used in Ruth 1:9 meaning a place of rest & security. Naomi was simply being a mom and looking out for the best interests of her daughter. She was trying to prepare a nest for Ruth; isn't that what mom's do?

### UNDERSTAND THE TIMES...

We must not see this situation through our North American cultural eyes. Naomi was seeking the customs of the day for both herself & Ruth. Look up Deuteronomy 25: 5-10. What are we told about some of the customs of a close relative in this situation?

## CLOSE RELATIVES HAD RESPONSIBILITIES

- ~ Boaz was a close relative or 'kinsman-redeemer' of Elimelech.

THE HEBREW WORD USED HERE IS GA'AL (GOEL) WHICH INTERPRETS TO MEAN THE FOLLOWING: TO REDEEM, ACT AS KINSMAN-REDEEMER, AVENGE, REVENGE, RANSOM, DO THE PART OF A KINSMAN (BY MARRYING BROTHER'S WIDOW TO BEGET A CHILD FOR HIM, TO REDEEM FROM SLAVERY, TO REDEEM LAND, TO EXACT VENGEANCE)

**Look up these verses as well. What other responsibilities did the kinsman-redeemer have?**

Leviticus 25:48 \_\_\_\_\_

Numbers 35:19 \_\_\_\_\_

Leviticus 25:25 \_\_\_\_\_

*In short, the kinsmen of the Old Testament were responsible to safeguard the persons, property & future generations of that family.*

## SOME BOAZ FACTS...

- ~ Boaz was one of the close relatives to Elimelech.
- ~ It is probable that Naomi was past child bearing years, so she in essence gave Boaz to Ruth so that Elimelech's family line would be preserved.
- ~ Boaz was an honourable man & highly respected in the community of Bethlehem (Ruth 2:1; 4:1)
- ~ He had great report with his workers
- ~ He honoured & protected the women that worked in his fields
  - o proved this toward Ruth
- ~ He saw virtue in Ruth (Ruth 2:11, 12; 3:11)
  - o The virtue he refers to is a reflection of what kind of man he is

VIRTUOUS MEANS: STRENGTH, MIGHT, EFFICIENCY, WEALTH, VALOUR

## 2. MAKE YOUR CLAIM

### RUTH TAKES ACTION.

(Remember; Ruth is virtuous – she would not submit herself to someone or something that was anything other than that.)

- ~ Ruth takes Naomi's wise advice
  - o to claim her family rights
    - Boaz was her goel, her kinsman redeemer
  - o on what would please a man :)
    - made herself ready – washed, perfumed, dressed in her best
    - didn't make a move until Boaz was fed & satisfied physically
    - was not half hearted and put her best foot forward
  - o goes to where Boaz was
    - Boaz was sleeping at the threshing floor to guard it from theft as they were at the height of the harvest

- He was fed & satisfied and tired from a hard day's work
- lays at Boaz's feet
  - this was a sign of the role of a servant displaying humility & submission
  - she was not demanding, just appealing in humility
  - she was also showing her trust in Boaz's good character
- asks Boaz to cover her

*...RUTH'S GOOD ASSURANCE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF HER AFFAIR. SHE OBSERVED HER MOTHER'S ORDERS, WENT AND LAID HERSELF DOWN, NOT BY HIS SIDE, BUT OVERCROSS HIS BED'S FEET, IN HER CLOTHES, AND KEPT AWAKE, WAITING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO TELL HER ERRAND. WHEN HE AWAKED IN THE NIGHT, AND PERCEIVED THERE WAS SOMEBODY AT HIS FEET, AND ENQUIRED WHO IT WAS, SHE TOLD HIM HER NAME AND THEN HER ERRAND (RUTH 3:9), THAT SHE CAME TO PUT HERSELF UNDER HIS PROTECTION, AS THE PERSON APPOINTED BY THE DIVINE LAW TO BE HER PROTECTOR: "THOU ART HE THAT HAS A RIGHT TO REDEEM A FAMILY AND AN ESTATE FROM PERISHING, AND THEREFORE LET THIS RUIN BE UNDER THY HAND: AND SPREAD THY SKIRT OVER ME--BE PLEASED TO ESPOUSE ME AND MY CAUSE." THUS MUST WE BY FAITH APPLY OURSELVES TO JESUS CHRIST AS OUR NEXT KINSMAN, THAT IS ABLE TO REDEEM US, COME UNDER HIS WINGS, AS WE ARE INVITED (MATTHEW 23:37), AND BEG OF HIM TO SPREAD HIS SKIRT OVER US. "LORD JESUS, TAKE ME INTO THY COVENANT AND UNDER THY CARE. I AM OPPRESSED, UNDERTAKE FOR ME." (MATTHEW HENRY COMPLETE COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE BIBLE)*

*"Spread the corner of our garment over your maidservant ... Take your maidservant under you wing, for you are a close relative." Ruth 3:9*

## **BOAZ RESPONDS HONOURABLY.**

Read Ruth 3:9-13

- ~ He praises Ruth for the virtue that he sees in her
- ~ He does not take advantage of her
- ~ Is thorough & upright telling her about another relative that has first rights to her if he chooses
- ~ Respects her privacy and sends her away before dawn
- ~ Makes sure that she does not go home empty handed
- ~ Promises to redeem her in one way or another and to do it before the day is out

Boaz is such a great reflection of the love and character of God toward us. God's love is not based on nationality, past failures or successes, appearance or merit. His love is based on His love. He is and always will be 'love'. (1 John 4:8)

## **GOD WILL COVER US.**

Read these scriptures. Let them feed you & encourage you. Write down your thoughts beside each...

2 Samuel 22:31 \_\_\_\_\_

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Psalms 5:11 \_\_\_\_\_

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Psalms 17:5-9 \_\_\_\_\_

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Psalm 91:3-5

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Isaiah 41:10-13

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### 3. BE STILL.

*Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!*

Psalm 46:10

#### NAOMI GIVES WISDOM ONCE AGAIN TO RUTH.

- ~ Naomi knows her God!
- ~ She knows that she has done all that she could do, and that Ruth has done the same
- ~ The rest is up to God.

Psalm 27:14

Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

Psalm 37:9

For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

Psalm 37:34

Wait on the LORD, and keep His way, and He shall exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.

Isaiah 8:17

And I will wait on the LORD, Who hides His face from the house of Jacob; and I will hope in Him.

Isaiah 40:31

But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

#### WRITE DOWN WHAT GOD IS SAYING TO YOU TODAY...

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#### SO, BE STILL.

- ~ SEEK SECURITY - TAKE COVER, KNOW YOUR GOD
- ~ MAKE YOUR CLAIM - KNOW YOUR GOD-RIGHTS
- ~ BE STILL - WAIT FOR GOD TO ACT ON YOUR BEHALF

MANY PLANS ARE IN A MAN'S MIND, BUT IT IS THE LORD'S PURPOSE FOR HIM THAT WILL STAND.

PROVERBS 19:21