



ruth

DEVOTIONAL

KINSMAN REDEEMER // NOVEMBER 21, 2021

GRACE
FELLOWSHIP

Discussion Starter: How would you explain who Jesus is in simple terms—as if to a nonbeliever who has never heard of Jesus?

Key Passage: Read the third chapter of the Book of Ruth (3:1-18)

In Chapter Three of the Book of Ruth, we learn from Ruth's response to Boaz, her kinsman-redeemer, how we should respond to Jesus, our Kinsman-Redeemer.

1. Let's approach Christ humbly (v.1-5).

Naomi knew that Boaz would be winnowing barley at the threshing floor that very evening, so she instructed Ruth to prepare herself to meet him.

- **Ruth washed herself (v.3a).**

Discuss: How should we approach Jesus, our Kinsman-Redeemer, in worship? How is this similar to Ruth's actions as she prepared to approach her kinsman-redeemer?

- **Ruth put on perfume (v.3b).**

Discuss: Read 2 Corinthians 2:15. What do you think it means that we are to be "*the aroma of Christ*"?

- **Ruth changed out of her grieving widow clothes and put on a dress for a wedding (v.3c).**

Discuss: In the Bible, clothing often carries spiritual symbolism with it. Read and briefly discuss these verses regarding "spiritual clothing" in Scripture:

- Genesis 3:1-8; 21 – God shed blood to provide clothing for Adam and Eve after they sinned.
- Isaiah 61:10 – Salvation is pictured as clothing.
- Isaiah 64:6 – Our sins are as filthy rags before God.
- Colossians 3:9-10 – Our life in Christ is described as putting on new clothes.

- **Ruth put herself at Boaz's feet and was willing to yield to His will (v.3d-5)**

Discuss: How do the repentant actions of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:19-25) remind you of Ruth's actions and how we are to humbly approach the Lord?

Discuss: How does Ruth's action parallel John 7:17?

2. Let's acknowledge our new identity in Christ (v.6-13).

After working hard all day, Boaz lay down to sleep. Ruth quietly laid down at his feet. At midnight, Boaz woke up and realized a beautiful girl was lying at his feet! He asked her who she was, and Ruth replied, "*I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings*" (v.9). The phrase "*spread your wings*" meant "spread your blanket over me, too" and was symbolic of her asking Boaz to claim her for himself in marriage.

Boaz was eager to comply, but he recognized that there was a man who was a closer relative to Naomi than he was; thus, Boaz would need to get the other man's permission to allow Boaz to marry Ruth and be her redeemer (v.12). Boaz instructed Ruth to wait there until morning, and he would talk to the man. So, Ruth waited (v.13).

It is significant to note that Ruth is named twelve times in the Book of Ruth: Five of those times, her name is connected to pagan Moab: "*Ruth the Moabite*" (1:22; 2:2, 21; 4:5, 10). But notice how she introduces herself to Boaz: "*I am Ruth, your servant.*" Ruth recognized that her actions with Boaz would start a new life no longer associated with alienation, poverty, and grief but with acceptance, wealth, love, and joy! Ruth has gotten past her past! Her identity is no longer "*Ruth the Moabite*"; now, she is in a loving relationship with Boaz!

Discuss: What words would you use to describe your new identity in Christ?

Discuss: What difference does your identity in Christ make in your life?

Discuss: Why do you think many Christians struggle to get past their past and accept their new identity in Christ?

3. Let's appreciate our gifts from Christ (3:14-18).

Boaz made sure that Ruth was blessed as she returned to Naomi: He gave her two weeks supply of barley (v.15)! Back in 1:21, Naomi complained her hands were empty, but now everything had changed thanks to the generosity of the kinsman-redeemer!

Note that Ruth did not seek gifts; rather, she sought Boaz, and he gave her the gifts. We must be careful that our top priority and passion is the Lord, not just what He can do for us. Let's seek God, not just His gifts.

Discuss: What gifts from the Lord do you most appreciate? Why?

Discuss: How would you encourage a new Christian to focus on God, not just on His gifts?

For Further Study:

All the Books and Chapters of the Bible by Herbert Lockyer

"The Hidden Reason Boaz Was Compassionate to Ruth" article at www.crosswalk.com

"Why Isn't God Mentioned More in the Book of Ruth?" article at www.gotquestions.org