

Ruth 3:6-15e

About dusk—3:6-7

- 1) A summary of Ruth's submissive obedience—3:6 (cf. 3:1-5)
- 2) Boaz—3:7a *and his heart was good* (i.e. satisfied, but not buzzed or drunk),
- 3) Some particulars of Ruth's continued obedience—3:7b (cf. the wickedness of Lot's daughters in Genesis 19:30-38 and the beginning of the Moabite nation)

Changes come in the night—3:8-13

- 1) In time—3:8a *in the middle of the night* (cf. 3:2)
- 2) In Boaz's mindset—3:8b-9a (cf. 3:7) We know who this woman is, but Boaz does not!
- 3) In Ruth's self-perspective—3:9b
 - a) Her deliberate identification—*"I am Ruth, your maidservant [amah]."*
 - i) Emphasis on her femininity and marriageability instead of humility (cf. 2:13)
 - b) Her knowledgeable proposal for marriage and redemption—*Spread out your wing/cloak [cf. 2:12] over your maidservant [amah] because you are a close relative [ga'al]; cf. 2:20; 3:12-13; 4:1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 14]."*
 - i) **Note:** this concept of covering = marriage in Ezekiel 16:7-8
- 4) Boaz's acceptance of the proposal—3:10-13
 - a) A prayer-blessing—3:10 *"May you be blessed by Yahweh, my daughter. You have made the latter act of loyal-mercy [hesed; cf. 1:8] better than the former,"*
 - i) How did Ruth do that? *in that you have not gone after the* (available) *young men* [LXX indicates 24-40 years old], *whether poor or rich.*
 - ii) **Note:** Ruth's freedom as a widow to marry whomever she desires
 - b) A comforting promise (the climax of this section)—3:11 ¹¹ *And now my daughter, do not fear. All that you ask I will do for you, for all the people of the town* [literally "all the gate of my people"] *know that you are a woman of excellence.* (emphasis on character and capability; cf. 2:1; Proverbs 12:4; 31:10, 29)
 - c) A word of caution (a plot twist!)—3:12 ¹² *Now, it is true that I am a close relative [ga'al]; however, (uh oh) there is a close relative [ga'al] closer than I.*
 - i) **Note:** Sometimes God allows some potential difficulties/tension between His promises and fulfillment so we learn to trust Him
 - d) A sober-minded caution—3:13
 - i) Boaz protects the rights of the nearer unnamed relative
 - ii) Boaz does not expose Ruth to potential dangers in the night (cf. Song of Solomon 5:7)
 - iii) Boaz recognizes the reality of Yahweh's personality and existence

Ruth and Boaz's appropriate concern for Ruth's reputation—3:14-15

- 1) Ruth's obedience and caution—3:14 (cf. 3:4, 13)
- 2) Boaz does not want to harm Ruth's reputation or any legal situations—3:14b
- 3) Boaz's graciously provides for Ruth and Naomi again—3:15 probably 6 *seahs* (a *seah* is 1/3 of an *ephah*; so this equal 2 *ephahs*) = about 60+ pounds total
 - a) Approximately double of what she worked for earlier (cf. 2:17)
 - b) By doing so, this gives the appearance of Ruth returning home from working overtime through the night.