**Lesson 3 Ruth Chap 3 1 to18**

**Ruth 3:1-18 (NASB)**
1  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?
2  "Now is not Boaz our kinsman, with whose maids you were? Behold, he winnows barley at the threshing floor tonight.
3  "Wash yourself therefore, and anoint yourself and put on your *best* clothes, and go down to the threshing floor; *but* do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.
4  "It shall be when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies, and you shall go and uncover his feet and lie down; then he will tell you what you shall do."
5  She said to her, "All that you say I will do."
6  So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law had commanded her.
7  When Boaz had eaten and drunk and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came secretly, and uncovered his feet and lay down.
8  It happened in the middle of the night that the man was startled and bent forward; and behold, a woman was lying at his feet.
9  He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth your maid. So spread your covering over your maid, for you are a close relative."
10  Then he said, "May you be blessed of the LORD, my daughter. You have shown your last kindness to be better than the first by not going after young men, whether poor or rich.
11  "Now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you whatever you ask, for all my people in the city know that you are a woman of excellence.
12  "Now it is true I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I.
13  "Remain this night, and when morning comes, if he will redeem you, good; let him redeem you. But if he does not wish to redeem you, then I will redeem you, as the LORD lives. Lie down until morning."
14  So she lay at his feet until morning and rose before one could recognize another; and he said, "Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor."
15  Again he said, "Give me the cloak that is on you and hold it." So she held it, and he measured six *measures* of barley and laid *it* on her. Then she went into the city.
16  When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "How did it go, my daughter?" And she told her all that the man had done for her.
17  She said, "These six *measures* of barley he gave to me, for he said, 'Do not go to your mother-in-law empty-handed.'"
18  Then she said, "Wait, my daughter, until you know how the matter turns out; for the man will not rest until he has settled it today."

**IV. Seeking Redeeming Love (**[**chap. 3**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3)**)**

Naomi was no longer depressed. She became a matchmaker and prepared Ruth to seek the love of her willing kinsman-redeemer, Boaz. The turning point in the narrative is at hand.

**A. A plan for redemption (**[**3:1-5**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A1-5)**)**

During the weeks of the barley and wheat harvests (cf. [2:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+2%3A23)), Naomi had time to put her plan together. When the time was right she acted.

[3:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A1). **Naomi** was a persistent person (cf. [1:8-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+1%3A8-15)). She was now resolved to seek rest and security for her daughter-in-law through marriage. Ruth had given up the possibility of remarriage in order to care for the aging Naomi, but now marriage suddenly again became a possibility. It was customary for Hebrew parents to arrange marriages for their children ([Judges 14:1-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jdg+14%3A1-10)). **To find a home** is literally to "find rest" (cf. [Ruth 1:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+1%3A9)), to be settled and secure in a home with a husband.

[3:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A2). Naomi pointed out that since **Boaz** was a relative of theirs, he could be a **kinsman-**redeemer for Ruth. He had an open and willing heart. So Naomi suggested Ruth go to **the threshing floor** that evening. The people of Bethlehem took turns using the threshing floor. The floor was a flat hard area on a slightly raised platform or hill. In threshing, the grain was beaten out from the stalks with flails (cf. [2:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+2%3A17)) or was trodden over by oxen. Then in **winnowing** the grain was thrown in the air and the wind carried the chaff away. The grain was then removed from the threshing floor and placed in heaps to be sold or stored in granaries.

Threshing and winnowing were a time of great festivity and rejoicing. Naomi knew that Boaz was threshing his grain on the day that she had chosen for her plan. She also knew that Boaz would be sleeping near his grain that night, to protect it.

[3:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A3). Ruth was to prepare herself by washing and perfuming herself. The words **best clothes** may be rendered "a large outer garment." This was to keep her identity from being detected. She was to observe Boaz **eating and drinking** but was not to **let him know** of her presence.

[3:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A4). After Boaz finished eating and drinking, Ruth was to observe **the place where** he retired for the night. Under cover of darkness Ruth was to **go** to Boaz, **uncover his feet, and lie down** there. (On the meaning of the uncovering of the feet, see the [comments](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=137&sec=00009579#links727) on [v. 7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A7).) Boaz, Naomi said, would then **tell** Ruth what she was **to do.** The implication was clear that Ruth should do whatever he requested.

[3:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A5). **Ruth** stated that she would act in full and unquestioned obedience to the directions of her mother-in-law (cf. [2:22-23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+2%3A22-23)).

**B. A claim for redemption (**[**3:6-9**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A6-9)**)**

The preparation for the redemption experience had been carefully made. Now the plan had to be carried out.

[3:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A6). Ruth **went** to **the threshing floor** and carried out the plan in exact detail as matchmaker Naomi had laid it out.

[3:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A7). Some commentators suggest that what **Ruth** did presented an opportunity for immorality. But nothing in the passage supports this. Her mother-in-law had complete confidence in the integrity of the kinsman-redeemer. **Boaz** could be trusted to act responsibly. And Ruth was recognized by everyone as "a woman of noble character" ([v. 11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A11)). The uncovering of the **feet** was a ceremonial act that was completely proper. Probably the scene took place in the dark so that Boaz had the opportunity to reject the proposal without the whole town knowing about it.

[3:8-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A8-9). **Something startled** Boaz **in the middle of the night. He turned** to discover that **a woman** was **lying at his feet.** Boaz asked for the identity of his unusual guest (cf. [2:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+2%3A5)). Ruth responded in humility (cf. [2:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+2%3A10)): **I am your servant Ruth.** She had put herself under the wings of Yahweh ([2:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+2%3A12)), and now she asked to be put under the wings of Boaz. In the phrase **the corner of your garment** the word "corner" is *kānāp*, which is translated "wing" in [2:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+2%3A12). She used a poetic image that had its source in the blessing that Boaz had given her. A Moabitess widow was calling the attention of a noted Hebrew to his responsibility. He could now follow through on his benediction ([2:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+2%3A12)) by becoming Ruth's **kinsman-redeemer** and providing her with the security of marriage.

**C. A pledge of redemption (**[**3:10-15**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A10-15)**)**

Boaz joyfully received Ruth's proposal. The tension of the plot continued, however, because another kinsman had a prior claim on her.

[3:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A10). Boaz gave no hint that Ruth had embarrassed him by her actions or that she had done something that was not within her rights or against the customs of the day. Rather than thinking suggestive thoughts as some might have done in such a setting, he immediately blessed Ruth: **The Lord bless you.** He again used the phrase **my daughter,** a reminder of their age difference (cf. [2:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+2%3A8); [3:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A11)). He commended Ruth for her act of **kindness** ("loyalty," *ḥesed̠*; cf. [comments](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=137&sec=00009463#links726) on [1:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+1%3A8)) that was **greater than** her decision to serve her mother-in-law. Boaz also commended her for not going **after** a **younger** man. He seemed to believe Ruth could have readily found such a match. He praised her for being willing to marry an older man in order to fulfill her commitment to her first husband, Mahlon (cf. [4:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+4%3A10)), and the family name of Elimelech.

[3:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A11). Boaz then relieved any immediate fears Ruth might have had by saying that he would **do** as she requested. He might have sensed that she was apprehensive over how he might interpret her bold proposal. Boaz told her that **all** his **fellow townsmen** (lit., the "people of the gate," probably referring to the elders of Bethlehem) considered her a person of the highest reputation. **Noble character** translates *ḥayil* ("valor, worth, ability"), the same word used of the worthiness of Boaz ([2:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+2%3A1); cf. [Prov. 12:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+12%3A4); [31:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+31%3A10), [29](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+31%3A29) ["noble"]). They were truly a good match!

[3:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A12). The narrative, however, was not nearing the end. Still another complication had to be unraveled. Boaz had already looked into the legal aspects of the proposed marriage; perhaps he had anticipated her request. He knew that Ruth by her marriage into Elimelech's family had a relative who was more closely related to her than he was. But Boaz would do all he could to see that the outcome would be one that satisfied Ruth's request.

[3:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A13). Boaz acted responsibly in two ways: (1) He did not send her home in the middle of **the night.** He would protect her and he would touch her only if she could be rightfully his. (2) Also he protected the rights of her nearer kinsman. If the other relative wanted **to redeem,** that was his right. But if the nearer kinsman was **not willing,** Boaz would **surely** do so. He covered his pledge with a **vow.** There was no doubt about how Boaz wanted the matter to eventuate.

[3:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A14). Ruth **lay at his feet until** early **morning.** She arose before daylight. Boaz did not want her life complicated by village gossips, so he urged her not to **let it be known** she had been at **the threshing floor.** Nothing had happened that was improper but gossipers are not careful about facts.

[3:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A15). Into Ruth's **shawl** Boaz put **six measures of barley** for her and Naomi. Naomi was entering more and more into the fullness of her wise decision to return to Bethlehem. The "measure" was probably the seah (one-third of an ephah or about 10 pounds). Thus six seahs would equal about 60 pounds. Ruth was a strong woman to be able to carry such a heavy load. Probably Boaz placed the burden **on her** head.

Some Hebrew manuscripts read, **Then he went back to town,** but others have "she" in place of "he." Since Ruth returned to Bethlehem at that time and Boaz a bit later that morning ([4:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+4%3A1)), both renderings ("she" and "he") fit the facts.

**D. An anticipation of redemption (**[**3:16-18**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A16-18)**)**

Naomi eagerly sought to know the outcome of Ruth's adventure and predicted that Boaz would quickly resolve the issues that day. Whatever the outcome as to who the redeemer would be, it would be Ruth's day of redemption.

[3:16-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A16-17). **Naomi** sought to know how it had gone with **Ruth.** As before, she called Ruth **my daughter** ([v. 1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A1); [2:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+2%3A2); cf. [1:11-13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+1%3A11-13); [3:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A18)). Ruth gave her a full report and added that **Boaz had** given her the **barley** so that Naomi could share in Ruth's future fulfillment. Naomi had done her matchmaking well and had earned a reward. The aged widow could then rest assured that she would not be forgotten in the future.

[3:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A18). Naomi and Ruth had done all they could. The initiative now rested with Boaz. Boaz would **not rest** till he had **settled the matter** that day.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

**Lesson 3 Ruth chap 3 1-18**

**Open it**

1. What kind of reputation do you think Christianity has in the world today?
 **As Christians, some mock us, some call us dumb for following God, some hate us and say we are bad.**

2. On whom do you depend for advice when you need it?
 **My wife, my pastor and close friends.**

**Explore it**

3. What motivated Naomi to tell Ruth to go to Boaz? ([3:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A1-2))
 **She sought security for Ruth that it would be well with her, and told her to go and wait on what he would say and do.**

4. What specific instructions did Naomi give to Ruth? ([3:1-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A1-4))
 **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? "Now is not Boaz our kinsman, with whose maids you were? Behold, he winnows barley at the threshing floor tonight. "Wash yourself therefore, and anoint yourself and put on your *best* clothes, and go down to the threshing floor; *but* do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. "It shall be when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies, and you shall go and uncover his feet and lie down; then he will tell you what you shall do."**

5. How did Ruth respond to Naomi’s unusual request? ([3:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A5))
 **She did as she was asked**

6. How did Ruth answer Boaz when he discovered her at his feet? ([3:8-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A8-9))
 **That she was Ruth, your maid, So spread your covering over your maid, for you are a close relative**

7. To what was Boaz referring when he said, "This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier"? ([3:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A10))
 **She had used Jewish tradition and asked him to be her redeemer by her actions, rather than going after younger men.**

8. Why was Boaz willing to fulfill his obligation? ([3:10-13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A10-13))
 **She had treated him with respect and was known for her excellence. Taking care of Naomi.**

9. What did Boaz tell Ruth to do? Why? ([3:13-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A13-14))
  **"Remain this night, and when morning comes, if he will redeem you, good; let him redeem you. But if he does not wish to redeem you, then I will redeem you, as the LORD lives. Lie down until morning."  So she lay at his feet until morning and rose before one could recognize another; and he said, "Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." He did not want her reputation to be tarnished.**

10. What did Boaz do to protect Ruth’s good reputation? ([3:13-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A13-14))
 **Read answer above**

11. In what way did Boaz show kindness to Ruth’s mother-in-law? ([3:15-17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A15-17))
 **By giving Ruth the 6 measures of grain and telling her not to go to your mother in law empty handed.**

12. How did Naomi predict Boaz would handle the situation? ([3:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ru+3%3A18))
 **That he would not rest until he has settled it today**

**Get it**

13. What does Ruth’s obedience to Naomi reveal about her character?
 **That she truly thought of Naomi as her mother**

14. What does Boaz’s willingness to fulfill his obligation reveal about him?
 **He is a man of God and follows Gods laws**

15. What positive character traits stand out in this story?
 **Honesty, perseverance, trust, love**

16. Judging from this passage, what does God want you to do when you cannot see the solution to a problem in your life?
 **Trust in Him and ask and elder for guidance in your life**

**Apply it**

17. How could you encourage or advise a Christian friend who is struggling with a problem?
 **First get their trust, if not nothing will help**

18. What is one specific step you can take this week to benefit from the wisdom and insight of a more mature Christian?
 **Listen to them closely as they speak**