

Ruth 3

Ruth 3.1-5

V1 – Naomi was about to play the match-maker

-**Have you ever tried to be a match-maker? Success?** Not usually...

V2 – **When will the match-making begin?** That evening

-**Winnow?** To separate the wheat from the chaff by throwing it into the air

V3 – Sly advice

[Men, this is how we get taken in, isn't it? We think we choose our wives, but they choose us!]

Or: "A man pursues a woman until she catches him"

-Boaz didn't have a chance – he was a sitting duck

-**Advice of Naomi?** Bathe, anoint yourself with oil (perfume), wear your best clothes, and go to him after he has eaten and had something to drink

V4 – **Then?** Where he lays down, uncover his feet

V5 – She agreed to follow Naomi's advice

Ruth 3.6-13

V6 – Ruth followed the advice of Naomi

-**Why was Boaz sleeping in the field?** To protect his grain

V7 – Uncovering = Boaz would have been wearing a long robe called a "chudda"

-**What was Ruth saying symbolically?** *"I want to be under your protection – I am willing to be your wife"* – but a very discreet way of saying it

-There is no suggestion of immorality here; rather, this was a Jewish custom with much symbolism

-modern minds always suspect the worst

Read Leslie G. Thomas, *The Beautiful Gleaner*, p. 156-157

V8 – **The reaction of Boaz?** Startled

V9 - She identified herself

-She reminded him that he was a relative who might be able to redeem her

V10 – **What impressed Boaz?** She had chosen him over the younger men

V11 – **What decision was made in mind of Boaz?** = marriage, if possible

-**Reputation of Ruth?** Excellent with all the people

V12 – **One possible complication?** There was one relative closer to her than Boaz

V 13 – **Advice of Boaz?** First thing in the morning, he would check on other man – if he wasn't interested, then Boaz would "redeem" Ruth

Ruth 3.14-18

V 14 – **Why did she leave before [daylight]?** To avoid the very appearance of evil

-Paul and money for Jerusalem – took along others – **Read 2 Cor. 8.19-20**

-Today, we must avoid situations which make people think something might be wrong

-Pop song from 1960's: "Wake Up, Little Suzy" – modern generation would not understand that song

V 15 – **What did Boaz do?** Gave 6 measures of barley to Ruth (showed his hospitality)

V 16-17 – Ruth told Naomi all that had happened

V 18 – **Advice of Naomi?** Wait – it will be resolved soon

-In other words, a man won't let a matter go on long (buying a car, house, motorcycle, etc.)

-Car salesmen tell us that from when a person first looks at a new car until he finally buys one is about 3 weeks

-And when a man takes a car for a test drive, the chances of buying that car are huge

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