

When Righteousness is Risky Business (Part 3)

0213Ru3.11-15(12)

Ruth 3:11-15

“So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law had commanded her. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>And 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. <sup>9</sup>And 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.” <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>“And 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. <sup>12</sup>“And now it is

true I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. <sup>13</sup>“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.” <sup>14</sup>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.” <sup>15</sup>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.

– Ruth 3:6–15 (NASB)

*The Passage is Also Found on Page 200 of the Old Testament Section of the Pew Bibles*

- I. Act One: The Royal Line with Hope in Ruin (1:1-22)
- II. Act Two: The Royal Line with Hope Renewed (2:1-23)
- III. Act Three: The Royal Line with Hope at Risk (3:1-18)
- IV. Act Four: The Royal Line with Hope Restored (4:1-17)

**III. Act Three: The Royal Line with Hope at Risk (3:1-18)**

A. Scene One: Remedy Proposed (vv. 1-5) **or** *Naomi Proposes: A Husband for Ruth*

B. Scene Two: Reception or Rejection (vv. 6-15) **or** *Righteousness on a Threshing Floor*

**1. When Righteousness is Risky Business . . .**

**a. Prayerfully Listen to Godly Counsel (v. 6-7a)**

*Evident in Ruth's Heeding Naomi's Advice*

**b. Patiently Trust God and His Timing (7b-9)**

*Evident in Ruth's Patience in Waiting for Boaz to Act*

*Through this passage we find some guidelines that will help us navigate our lives with confidence that ultimately nothing is at risk because God is in control. For us, risk becomes trust.*

**c. Practice Loyalty to Others and Not to Self (10)**

*Evident in Ruth's Heseid Toward Others*

(1) "Kindness" -- some translations render it "loyalty" (Heb. word *hesed*)

→ **d. Promote a Reputation of Integrity (11)**

*Evident in the lives of Ruth and Boaz*

(1) Three things to note in this verse (three statements by Boaz)

- (a) Do not fear
- (b) I will do for you what you ask
- (c) You are a woman of excellence

(2) In the Hebrew text "all my people in the city" is literally "all the gate of my people"

(a) In making reference to "the gate" Boaz is doing what two things?

- i.
- ii.

(3) Ruth as a woman of excellence (Proverbs 31)

(4) Boaz as a man of excellence (Ruth 2:1)

**e. Put-off Manipulation and Put on Faithful Obedience (12-13a)**

*Evident in Boaz's Knowledge of God's Word and Trust in His Sovereignty*

Do the right thing and trust God.

**f. Protect the Honor of Others (13b-14)**

*Evident in Boaz's Protection of Ruth*

**g. Provide for Those in Need (15)**

*Evident in Boaz's Continued Provision for Ruth and Naomi*