

Ruth Part 4: "Hold Fast to Rest" (10-8-2017)

Intro to the Study of Ruth: The 4 short chapters of Ruth will take us throughout the scripture – it's 1 complete story all pointing to Jesus and every detail matters and speaks of Him.

Hebrews 10:23 (ESV)

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Review: Hold Fast to the King, His People, & His Grace (We left off with Ruth gleaning in the fields of Boaz)

This Week: Hold Fast to Rest

Ruth 2:23-3:1 (ESV)

(2:23) So she kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law. (3:1) Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you?"

Notes: Ruth 3:1-4 (Naomi's plan & instructions)

- Seeking Rest for Ruth
- Boaz (the near relative) is threshing tonight
- Clean yourself up, and then keep yourself hidden and take note where Boaz sleeps
- Uncover his feet and lie down, then he will tell you what to do

This plan is going to require something from **Ruth . . . Humility**

1) **Humility** – by listening to Naomi's instructions

Ruth 3:5 (ESV)

And Ruth replied, "All that you say I will do."

2) **Humility** – by obeying Naomi's instructions

Ruth 3:6 (ESV)

So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her.

Naomi – I'm going to arrange for you to have REST. Now get to work . . .

How often we miss this! We have to participate in the work of rest. However, we mistake this by trying to do Jesus (Boaz) part! We try to do all the justifying work. But we are called to humble ourselves before him.

IF we would listen & obey – we would find rest!!! (Notice it is for our benefit – see verse 1)

3) Humility – by being vulnerable before Boaz

Ruth 3:7 (ESV)

And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then Ruth came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down.

Note: She puts herself at his mercy – she comes at night and exposes his feet & then lies down. We tend to think of vulnerability as weakness, but it takes courage to expose yourself and put yourself at risk!

4) Humility – by boldly coming to Boaz

Ruth 3:8-9 (ESV)

(8) At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! (9) He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer."

Note: She comes as a servant, and she asks for mercy.

This is humble & bold. This is a risky move, for 2 reasons:

- He is guarding his harvest, and gets startled
- He could reject her, and this looks scandalous

5) Humility – by trusting in Boaz

Ruth 3:9 (ESV)

He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer."

Note: Ruth relies on his character (you are a redeemer). She is trusting that He will cover her!

She is also trusting that He is her best (only) option . . .

Ruth 3:10 (ESV)

And Boaz said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich.

Note: She chose him. Just as she is asking him to choose her, so he is acknowledging that she chose him!

Now . . . This plan is also going to require something from **Boaz** . . . **Work**

Ruth 3:11-12 (ESV)

(11) And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman. (12) And now it is true that I am a redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I.

Note: He will redeem her, but he's got work to do (there is a closer relative). Also note . . .

He calls Ruth a "Worthy woman"

This is the same title as "Virtuous Woman" (from Proverbs 31 – Solomon, her great, great grandson)

Ruth 3:13 (ESV)

Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, as the LORD lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning."

Note: The world keeps waiting for the nearer redeemer, but he always falls short.

Jesus will do the work that our nearer redeemer is unable & unwilling to do!!

Verses 14-15 (Ruth leaves early, Boaz gives instructions to his men to keep quiet, and then gives her 6 measures of barley. Naomi will have some insight into this)

Ruth 3:16-18 (ESV)

(16) And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "How did you fare, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her, (17) saying, "These six measures of barley he gave to me, for he said to me, 'You must not go back empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'" (18) She replied, "Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest but will settle the matter today."

Note: The imagery of the 6 measures of barley is very Jewish (it represents the 6 days of work), meaning the Man won't rest until he has resolved the matter!!!

Conclusion: Let's see this picture of Holding Fast to the Rest that's only found in Jesus . . .

Hebrews 4:9-16 (ESV)

(9) So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, (10) for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. (11) Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. (12) For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (13) And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (14) Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. (15) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (16) Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Notes:

- Vs. 11-12 (Listen & Obey)
- Vs. 13 (Vulnerable)
- Vs. 16 (Bold)
- Vs. 14 (Trust)

The very act of Rest is a humble act . . . I'm going to stop striving and rest upon the work of Christ.

Our choice: I can rely on striving and welfare my whole life, or I can rest in the riches and bounty of Christ!!!