

GOD'S PROMISES FULFILLED

A Study in the Books of Joshua and Ruth

At the Threshing Floor Ruth 3*"...Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer."* Ruth 3:9**Read Ruth 3:1-6.**

1. "In every Israelite family, two issues were paramount: the survival of the family name [sons] and keeping the family land in family hands."¹ How is the first issue problematic in Elimelech's family? (1:3-5)

2.
 - a. In 1:8-9, what did Naomi encourage Ruth to do in order to find rest?

 - b. Where does Naomi expect Ruth to find rest now? (v. 1)

 - c. What is Naomi's plan to bring this about for Ruth? (vv. 2-4)

3. Up to this point in the story, the interactions between Ruth and Boaz have taken place in the light of day and in the presence of other people.
 - a. How is the setting of their meeting in chapter 3 different?

 - b. Why do you think a night time meeting was the best and worst time for Ruth and Boaz to meet?

4. Why was Naomi willing to put Ruth in a situation that was so risky? (2:8-9, 20)


5. What does Ruth's response to Naomi's instruction reveal about Ruth's character and where her trust lies? (vv. 5-6)

Threshing floors were flat places where grain was separated from the straw and husks. But they were also in fact associated with promiscuity, e.g. prostitutes were known to visit workers who labored there.²

Read Ruth 3:7-13.

6. Ruth understands that to uncover and lie down at Boaz's feet would be a clear marriage proposal. What emotions might she be experiencing as she heads to the threshing floor?

7. After Ruth identifies herself as his servant, what does she ask Boaz to do? (v. 9)

What is the significance of this? (2:12;  Ezek. 16:8)

8. Boaz wakes up in the middle of the night to find a woman lying at his feet. In the midst of a potentially compromising situation, how would you characterize the interaction between Boaz and Ruth?

a. What do we learn about Boaz?

b. What do we learn about Ruth?

Read Ruth 3:14-18.


9. In many ways Boaz reflects the faithful covenant-keeping character of God:

a. Boaz has a heart to *protect* Ruth (2:9). What does he do in verse 14 that continues this pattern?

b. Boaz also has a heart to *provide* for Ruth (and Naomi as well). How does he do this in this chapter?

10. How can these characteristics of God encourage you in the circumstances of your life and point you to Jesus?

This study was adapted from a previous study on Joshua, New Life Women's Bible Study, 2000-2001.

 Denotes 'for further study'.

¹ Carolyn Custis James, *The Gospel of Ruth: Loving God Enough to Break the Rules* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008), 149

² Judges, Ruth: An Exegetical and Theological Exposition of Holy Scripture (Volume 6); The New American Commentary by Daniel I. Block; (Published by Holman Reference in 1999).