

MIDNIGHT Proposal ~ Ruth 3:1-18

→ Scripture Reading Ruth 3:1-5

INTRODUCTION

Dear Yenta, my widowed daughter-in-law has daily contact with an older man who shows concern about her and respect for her. In fact, from the moment he saw her, he was deeply interested in her and has treated her like a princess. But fast-forward two months, and he still has not said one word to take their relationship to the next level. She likes him, but he's not getting any younger. How do we get him to ignite his inertia, to light his lethargy, to cancel his coma? Signed, **Befuddled** in **Bethlehem**." HOTC

Ruth 2:23 (NIV) So Ruth stayed close to the servant girls of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

→Winnowing grain x3

Seeking SECURITY ~ Ruth 3:1-5

¹ One day Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, should I not try to find a home for you, where you will be well provided for? ² Is not Boaz, with whose servant girls you have been, a kinsman of ours? Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. ³ Wash and perfume yourself, and put on your **best clothes**. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴ When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do." ⁵ **"I will do whatever you say,"** Ruth answered.

There was Potential for...

- Rejection
- Ruined Reputation
- Danger

IMPLICATION

→Ruth was WILLING to DO whatever Naomi Asked

⁵ "I will do everything you say," Ruth replied. (NLT)

Ruth Agreed to DO ALL Naomi asked because she...

- TRUSTED Naomi's COMMITMENT to God
- KNEW Naomi would NOT put her at RISK
- TRUSTED Naomi's Judgment
- BELIEVED Naomi's Evaluation of Boaz's Character

^{1:16} ..."Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you GO, I will go; wherever you LIVE, I will live. Your PEOPLE will be my people, and your GOD will be my God. ¹⁷ Wherever you DIE, I will die, and there I will be buried. **May the LORD punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!**" NLT

The PROPOSAL ~ Ruth 3:6-13

⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do. ⁷ When Boaz had **finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits**, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down.

>Why uncover his feet?

>Why did she lay down at his feet?

>Why in the middle of the Night?

⁸ In the middle of the night **something startled** the man, and he turned and discovered a woman lying at his feet. ⁹ Who are you? he asked. I am your servant Ruth, she said. Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are **A kinsman-redeemer**.

Kinsman-Redeemer- would REDEEM or BUY BACK Land and People Lev. 25.25
Kinsman-Redeemer had to be **FAMILY** -needed to be **WEALTHY** -needed to be **WILLING**

Levirate Marriage- man would marry his brother's widow Deut. 25.

¹⁰ The LORD bless you, my daughter, he replied. This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. ¹¹ And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All my fellow townsmen know that you are a woman of noble character. ¹² Although it is true that I am near of kin, there is a kinsman-redeemer nearer than I. ¹³ Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to redeem, good; let him redeem. But if he is not willing, as surely as the LORD lives I will do it. Lie here until morning.

It is clear that Boaz understands Ruth's actions and words to mean something OTHER than... *sleep with me*. He understands what she did as an INVITATION to marriage. Boaz sees her as a woman of NOBLE character EQUAL in STATUS and CHARACTER to himself. NIVAPP

IMPLICATION

→RUTH is a Woman of NOBLE Character

People of NOBLE Character

- Do what is RIGHT
- Are HONEST
- Cannot be BOUGHT
- ADMIT it when they are WRONG

The Long WAIT ~ Ruth 3:14-18

¹⁴ So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, "Don't let it be known that a woman came to the threshing floor." ¹⁵ He also said, Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out." When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and put it on her. Then he went back to town. ¹⁶ When Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, How did it go, my daughter? Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her ¹⁷ and added, **He gave me these six measures of barley**, saying, 'Don't go back to your mother-in-law EMPTY-HANDED. ¹⁸ Then Naomi said, Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.

TAKE AWAY ?? D. Platt

→Ruth displayed the Character and Priorities of God

¹⁰ ...This **KINDNESS** is greater than that which you showed earlier...

Kindness in Hb *Hesed* - love, loyalty, grace, mercy faithfulness, compassion, kindness

What is Ruth's Love and Kindness like? (*Hesed*)

PATIENT- Relentless, Persistent, and Tenacious

PROVIDES- does the hard Work Necessary to care for the one Loved

PROTECTS- Ruth guarded and shielded Naomi from poverty

PURE- there is NOT even a hint of immorality in Ruth's behavior

PRICE- there is a COST to Loving well