

NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

LESSON FIFTY-ONE: RUTH 3:11

"And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman."

Boaz immediately calmed any fears or doubts that Ruth might have had. He would do as she had requested. That is, he was willing to marry her and raise up an heir in Mahlon's name.

Boaz assured her that all the people in the city knew that she was a virtuous woman. The phrase "all the city of my people" literally means "all the people of the gate." The elders of the city sat at the city gate. They knew of Ruth's good reputation.

The gates of a city were important because they were the weakest part of the wall surrounding the city. The gates were, therefore, built to provide protection from invaders. The construction of two gates with overlapping walls, forming a courtyard between them, provided added security. If the first gate was breached, the enemy still had to get through the second. The gates of a town were heavily defended. Some were provided with towers to serve as lookout posts.

Rooms were built into the walls for use by merchants. The high walls provided shade, making it an ideal place for meetings. Stone benches were available for people to rest on or gather to listen to public speeches. Local justice was dispensed at the city gates. Business was conducted here. And, this is where Boaz intended to go the next day to carry out the business of the Kinsman-Redeemer.

Why did Boaz mention that the whole town knew of Ruth's good reputation? Perhaps it was because they both knew that her private business would become public knowledge when he went to the gate on the morrow. He wanted to reassure her that people would understand that she was doing her duty in fulfilling the requirements of the law to preserve her deceased husband's land and name. Perhaps Ruth feared that people would misjudge her motives. After all, when the Kinsman-Redeemer had completed his work, she would be the wife of a very wealthy man. A man who was probably old enough to be her father.

Ruth had come a long way since she lost her husband. In everything she did Ruth acted unselfishly, kindly, and virtuously. She took it upon herself to care for her mother-in-law. She focused on the task she had set for herself. She didn't shut herself off from others. She didn't feel sorry for herself or complain about how unfair life is. She found a new purpose in life and she dedicated herself to it. She also strictly followed God's law and trusted Him for the results. Are you following Ruth's example?

*"Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."
Proverbs 31:30*