

## NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

### LESSON FIFTY: RUTH 3:10

**"And he said, Blessed be thou of the Lord, my daughter: for thou hast showed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich."**

Boaz received Ruth's proposal with joy. He blessed her decision to follow the Mosaic Law to benefit her late husband's family. She was also demonstrating her obedience to God Who established the laws so that the land originally allotted to each family and tribe remained in that family and tribe. Mahlon's family would retain ownership of their land because Ruth respected the laws of her adopted country, Israel.

Notice Boaz addressed her as "my daughter" emphasizing their age difference. While we are never given their ages they are probably separated by at least 20 years. Perhaps a picture of the ageless Christ and His Bride, the Church.

Boaz blessed Ruth for her kindness (Hebrew "hesed"). This word appeared several times previously in the Book of Ruth. In 1:8, Naomi asks God to be kind (hesed) to Ruth and Orpha because the ladies were kind (hesed) to her sons. In 2:20, Naomi blessed Boaz for his kindness to her and Ruth and their deceased husbands. It seems to be one of the minor themes that run through this book: kindness is rewarded.

Boaz specifically says that Ruth's kindness had increased. In the beginning, Ruth showed hesed-kindness to a sickly young Jewish man who was living in her native country of Moab. Ruth married the young man, Mahlon, and cared for him until his death. Then, she cared for Mahlon's mother, Naomi, even leaving her home and family to accompany Naomi to Bethlehem. Ruth's hesed-kindness was then shown in her willingness to work in the grain fields to support her aging mother-in-law.

Now, "in the latter end," Ruth demonstrates hesed-kindness by choosing to fulfill the Levirate Law and marry the Kinsman-Redeemer, thus retaining control of Mahlon's family heritage in his family. From Boaz's comment it appears Ruth was beautiful and could have had her pick of any of the young men in Bethlehem. But, she did not choose a husband near her own age because that would have taken Mahlon's family land out of the hands of the original family. She would have destroyed Mahlon's heritage. Ruth's hesed-kindness was to literally put herself on the altar of sacrifice. She gave her own body over to the keeping of the Mosaic Law. Although the Bible doesn't tell us how Ruth felt about Boaz, this appears to be a love story. Ruth was happy to give herself to Boaz as his wife.

A thousand plus years later, Ruth's many times grandson gave His body as a sacrifice. Jesus died to redeem His Bride, the Church. And His unending love, His hesed-kindness, continues to manifest itself in His daily care for us. Our kinsman-Redeemer is just waiting for us to approach with our request. His arms are open wide. He is ready to comfort, guide, meet your need whatever it is. Go to Him. You won't be disappointed.

*"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love." John 15:9*