

## NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

### LESSON FIFTY-THREE: RUTH 3:13

**"Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, as the Lord liveth: lie down until morning."**

Boaz told Ruth to spend the rest of the night on the threshing floor. It was already after midnight. It was not safe for Ruth to travel the roads back to Bethlehem. Boaz began their relationship by securing her safety while she gleaned. He told her to only glean in his fields, where he could protect her; to stay near his female reapers because there is safety in numbers; and, he warned his male workers not to touch her. Now she has put herself in danger by lying down on the threshing floor at night surrounded by the men guarding the grain. Boaz would protect her through the night and send her home when it was safe for her to travel.

Jesus protects His Bride, the Church, just as Boaz protected Ruth. He provides for our physical needs (Phil. 4:19). But He does it by enabling us to work and earn our keep, just as Ruth worked daily in the fields (II Thess. 3:10). He protects us from physical danger, as well (Ps. 91:11-12). We can safely put our trust in Christ, as Ruth did Boaz.

Boaz vowed to Ruth that he would be her Kinsman-Redeemer if the nearer relation would not. Either way, Ruth would be taken care of. But, what if Ruth didn't want to marry this other man? More than likely he was a stranger to her. She'd had weeks to get to know Boaz and she liked what she saw. If this nearer relation was willing to marry her, then she could not marry Boaz.

Boaz was a man of principles. He would not take advantage of the fact that Ruth had come to him for redemption. He intended to give the primary claimant his opportunity to redeem Mahlon's land and widow as his own. This must have been hard for Boaz who had developed feelings for Ruth. It says a lot about his character.

Boaz was determined to settle the matter for Ruth as soon as possible. He would contact the nearer relation in the morning and advise him of his rights under the Mosaic Law. Ruth had played her part and now she had to wait for Boaz to finish their business.

Waiting is sometimes the hardest thing to do. We lay our requests before the Lord and, then, wait for the answer. Sometimes, it's an immediate "yes" or "no." It's the "wait-a-while" answer that is the most difficult to bear. What we may not realize is that God is busy behind the scenes working on our behalf. We have to wait for our answer until He has completed that work. Ruth knew what Boaz was going to do because he told her. God does not always tell us what He is working on. Once again, it comes down to trust.

*"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thy heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." Psalm 27:14*