



A Risk-Taking Faith

Ruth 3

Ruth 3 shows Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz taking risks in faith. They show a commitment to one another, a confidence in each other's character, and a faith in God's goodness above all.

Naomi hatches a plan (1-5)

Naomi's _____ (2:23-3:1)

Ruth's first day in the fields give hope, but 6-7 weeks go by and Boaz does nothing. Naomi decides to keep things moving by encouraging Ruth to make a ask Boaz to redeem her. The hopeful, planning Naomi is very different from the despondent Naomi in chapters 1 and 2.

Naomi's _____ (3:2-5)

Naomi encourages Ruth to make known she is ready to be pursued in an unusual way. Naomi seems to want this to happen secretly, perhaps because she also knew there was a closer relative (3:12) or to avoid embarrassing Ruth if Boaz turned her down.

Ruth makes a proposal (6-9)

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Ruth's statement to Boaz ties back in with his earlier statement about coming under God's wings. The same Hebrew word for "wing" is here translated "skirt." Ruth is asking Boaz to be the one who practically protects and provides the way Boaz had said God would.



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Ruth's _____

Ruth's choice was risky: there was a big gap in social standing between the two of them and Ruth put herself at the mercy of a man in the dead of night during the period of the judges. But Ruth trusted the wisdom of Naomi and the character of Boaz, and so she did she boldly asked Boaz to be her redeemer.

Boaz takes charge (10-18)

Boaz _____ Ruth (3:10-11)

Boaz once again speaks kindly to Ruth. While others from the culture would have thought for Boaz to propose to Ruth would be a great honor, Boaz sees himself as the one honored by this gesture.

Boaz takes _____ for Ruth's future (3:12-13)

Boaz statement "there is kinsman nearer than I" comes like a gut punch. But Boaz steps in and confidently lets Ruth know he will address the problem.

Boaz guards Ruth's _____ (3:14)

Boaz is concerned to preserve both of their reputations, as well as to avoid complicating the business deal that is about to go down with rumors of anything inappropriate.

Boaz _____ Naomi (3:15-17)

Finally, Boaz makes sure that Naomi is considered and that Ruth has something to show for her trip. Boaz cares for Ruth and Naomi and wants to help at every opportunity that he has.

In the grossly immoral culture of Israel during the time of the judges, these three characters stand out as stellar examples. No matter what your background or surrounding culture, all of us have the choice of whether we will fall to the level of those around us or with the help of God rise to the level of His holiness.

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