



Sermon Title: "The Romance of Redemption"

Scripture: Ruth 3

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Sunday, November 20, 2022

Introduction: In the book of Ruth, we observe in Bethlehem people who demonstrated their **loyalty** to Jehovah by the way they lived and treated one another.

v. 1: By God's gracious providence, Naomi's bitterness gave way to active, selfless **hope**.

vv. 2-4: Naomi employed an insightful and practical **strategy** for seeking God's kindness for Ruth.

- *Proverbs 3:5-6; 16:1*

*Caution: Descriptive texts are not necessarily **prescriptive**.*

v. 5: Ruth's willingness exemplified **confidence** in Jehovah, Naomi's wisdom, and Boaz' character.

vv. 6-8: Ruth's risky (not risqué) proposal sought God's **blessing** through Boaz.

- *Ruth 2:12; Ezekiel 16:8*

vv. 9-15: Boaz' commitment to Ruth's redemption was rooted in **love** for Ruth and submission to God.

- At the threshing floor, the **contrast** of Boaz & Ruth with the surrounding culture is most evident.
- Boaz was willing to "lose" Ruth to another if it meant she would be **redeemed** according to Covenant law. (Deuteronomy 25:5-9)

vv. 16-18: Naomi's hope was demonstrated by both her action and **waiting**.

- *Proverbs 16:9; 19:21*

Conclusion: Active hope and patient waiting are not found in knowing God's plan, but in **trusting** God.

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. What was wise about Naomi's plan for Ruth?
2. In what way did Ruth's action require faith? What fears could have stopped her from action?
3. What is the significance of Ruth's request for Boaz to "spread your wings over your servant"? How does the context reveal the purity of the behavior between Ruth and Boaz? How did this contrast with the culture around them in that time period?
4. How is Boaz character revealed in his response to Ruth's proposal?
5. Naomi told Ruth to "wait" or "sit still." What did she mean and why would this have been difficult? How do we struggle with "waiting"?