

Ruth

Ruth 3:12-13: "Now it is true I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. 13 "Remain this night, and when morning comes, if he will redeem you, good; let him redeem you. But if he does not wish to redeem you, then I will redeem you, as the LORD lives. Lie down until morning." NASU

Boaz has committed to and is willing to do what Ruth has asked of him (*true I am a close relative, I will redeem you*), but he tells Ruth there is another who has the first call on fulfilling the role of redeemer than himself (*there is a relative closer than I*). In his integrity, Boaz does not do for himself that which he wants but does things the right way – he acts in accordance with the Law. **Leviticus 25:25; Proverbs 3:27-28; Matthew 7:12, 17:24-27; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

In verse 13, Boaz reassures Ruth that her request will be fulfilled, either by the closer relative or himself. Boaz's confidence is apparent; he doesn't seem overly concerned about the other kinsman redeeming Ruth. He comforts and reassures her, saying, "*Lie down until morning*," essentially conveying, "Don't worry, your pretty little head, everything is going to work out just fine." **Luke 12:29-32; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Philippians 4:14-17; 1 John 5:14-15**

Ruth 3:14-18: So she lay at his feet until morning and rose before one could recognize another; and he said, "Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." 15 Again he said, "Give me the cloak that is on you and hold it." So she held it, and he measured six measures of barley and laid it on her. Then she went into the city. 16 When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "How did it go, my daughter?" And she told her all that the man had done for her. 17 She said, "These six measures of barley he gave to me, for he said, "Do not go to your mother-in-law empty-handed." 18 Then she said, "Wait, my daughter, until you know how the matter turns out; for the man will not rest until he has settled it today." NASU

Ruth spent the evening at the feet of Boaz and arose in the morning to depart before the sunrise *before one could recognize another*. Boaz, being concerned for the reputation of Ruth, wanted to ensure there was no scandal related to her ("*Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor*"). Boaz wanted Ruth to return Naomi before anyone might assume something that would hurt her reputation or fire up the gossip mill in the little town. **Ecclesiastes 7:1; Isaiah 33:14-15; John 7:24; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Corinthians 10:31-32; 2 Corinthians 8:20-21; Philippians 2:14-15; Colossians 1:22; 1 Thessalonians 5:22; 1 Timothy 3:2-3, 7, 10, 5:5-7,14-16; Titus 1:5-9, 2:6-8**

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Boaz, however, would not let her go away emptyhanded – he again provided food for both Ruth and Naomi. Here we see another picture or type of Jesus in the character and actions of Boaz. Boaz gave out of his resources for one in need; out of love, he provided the necessary means to the needy, the one(s) impoverished, for their deliverance and survival, which God loves (*purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver*). ***Palms 41:1-3, 112:5-6; Proverbs 11:24-26, 19:17; Matthew 25:34-40; Luke 6:38, 14:13-14; Acts 20:35; 2 Corinthians 8:9, 9:6-8; Hebrews 13:16***

When Ruth arrived, Naomi, asked Ruth to fill her in on the details; Ruth told her everything and showed Naomi the generosity of Boaz. Naomi told Ruth the same thing Boaz had said to her, not to worry. Naomi, seeing the generous gift of Boaz, understood Boaz's intentions and she knew Boaz was not about to delay in doing what he committed to her. Boaz wanted to marry Ruth as much, or more so, as she desired for Boaz to marry her. ***Psalms 37:3-6; Song of Solomon; Matthew 5:33-37***