



Uncovered Feet

Ruth 3:1-18

Sunday

September 10, 2023



Naomi's Instruction *Ruth 3:1-3*



- ¹Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?”
- ²Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, *is he* not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.
- ³Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your *best* garment and go down to the threshing floor; *but* do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.



Naomi's Instruction
Ruth 3:4-6

- 4** Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do.”
- 5** And she said to her, “All that you say to me I will do.”
- 6** So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her.

Naomi's Instruction

- Security (a resting place)
 - manoach “the ark rested”
- Boaz is a relative.
- Prepare yourself and move at select moment.
- Uncover his feet and lie at his feet.
- Follow Naomi's instruction.

Good
Morning,
Boaz!

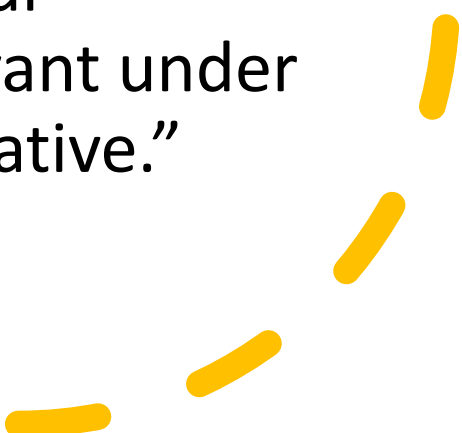
Ruth 3:7-9

⁷ And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.

⁸ Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet.

⁹ And he said, “Who *are* you?”

So she answered, “I *am* Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative.”



Good Morning, Boaz!

- • Text implies only natural course of events.
- “Uncovered his feet” sometimes a euphonism for exposure and even sexual intimacy.
- Not essential and not here as I will demonstrate.
- In darkness Boaz inquires about woman’s identity.
- “I am Ruth; you are my go’el”

Hebrew → גֹּאֵל

=

“kinsman redeemer.”

- Spread the corner of your garment over me.



Law of Levirate Marriage

Deuteronomy 25:5-7

Marriage Duty of the Surviving Brother

- 5 “If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be *married* to a stranger outside *the family*; her husband’s brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her.
- 6 And it shall be *that* the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.
- 7 But if the man does not want to take his brother’s wife, then let his brother’s wife go up to the gate to the elders, and say, ‘My husband’s brother refuses to raise up a name to his brother in Israel; he will not perform the duty of my husband’s brother.’



Law of Levirate Marriage

Deuteronomy 25:8-10

Marriage Duty of the Surviving Brother

- 8** Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him. But *if* he stands firm and says, 'I do not want to take her,'
- 9** then his brother's wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and answer and say, 'So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother's house.'
- 10** And his name shall be called in Israel, 'The house of him who had his sandal removed.'

Boaz's Intention

Ruth 3:10-12

- 10** Then he said, “Blessed *are* you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich.
- 11** And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you *are* a virtuous woman.
- 12** Now it is true that I *am* a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I.

Boaz's Intention

Ruth 3:13-15

¹³ Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be *that* if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you—good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, *as* the LORD lives! Lie down until morning.”

¹⁴ So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, “Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor.”

¹⁵ Also he said, “Bring the shawl that *is* on you and hold it.” And when she held it, he measured six *ephahs* of barley, and laid *it* on her. Then she went into the city.

Reasons we know that the action was not sexual:

-
- “You are blessed by God.”
 - You have shown greater chesed

Hebrew → חַסֵּד

now than before.

- You did not pursue younger men (Boaz was older man).
- You are a virtuous Chayil

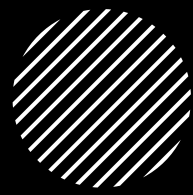
Hebrew → חַיִּיל

woman.



I am a go'el.

- A go'el closer than I
- If he does not want to perform this duty, then I will.
- Six ephahs of barley to take home (roughly 4 bushels)



Waiting the Results

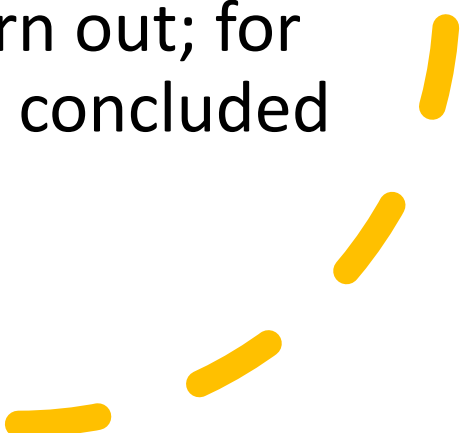
Ruth 3:16-18

16 When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, “Is that you, my daughter?”

Then she told her all that the man had done for her.

17 And she said, “These six *ephahs* of barley he gave me; for he said to me, ‘Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.’ ”

18 Then she said, “Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day.”



Waiting the Results

Sit still,

“Boaz will not rest” shows that he communicated urgency.