



# THE GOSPEL IN RUTH

## RETURN AND REDEMPTION

### COURTSHIP *RUTH 3*

*"Ruth is a good example for us to follow when we have needs to be met. She listened to instructions, obeyed, believed what her Redeemer said, received his gifts, and waited in patience for him to do the rest. When you are at the feet of our Redeemer, you have nothing to fear." —Warren Wiersbe*

#### **I. MATCHMAKING (RUTH 3:1-5)**

- A. The voice of expediency (v. 1)
- B. The kinship issue (v. 2)
- C. The blind date arrangement (vs. 3-5)

#### **II. MIDNIGHT DISCOVERIES (3:6-8)**

- A. Rendezvous at the threshing floor (v. 6)
- B. Ruth's ritual (v. 7)
- C. Rousing discovery (v. 8)

#### **III. MATURE APPRECIATION (3:9-11)**

- A. Covering of grace (v. 9)
- B. Blessing of acceptance (v. 10)
- C. Promise of protection (v. 11)

#### **IV. MEASURED GRACE (3:12-15)**

- A. Requisites of redemption (vs. 12, 13)
- B. Dignity and discretion (v. 14)
- C. Contract of evidence (v. 15)

#### **V. MANAGED MATTERS (3:16-18)**

- A. The report of success (v. 16)
- B. The evidence of grace (v. 17)
- C. The wisdom of waiting (v. 18)

*"There is no getting away from it: the old Christian rule is 'Either marriage, with complete faithfulness to your partner, or else total abstinence.' Chastity is the most unpopular of our Christian virtues." -- C.S. Lewis*



### **FOR THOUGHT, DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION...**

1. Some see in Naomi's counsel to Ruth as being manipulative and underhanded. What are your thoughts in regard to Oriental custom, and the typical meaning of it all?
2. By now we realize that, though this was a true story, there are numerous metaphors and types to consider. We haven't yet seen Boaz in his role as Kinsman-Redeemer, but if Ruth is a type of the Gentile world, what lessons might be drawn to this point in the text?
3. Secular observers make Ruth's midnight moves to be extremely sensual. What do you say to someone who attempts to make it out to be some sort of "Ancient Sex in The City"?
4. By contrast, what positive and virtuous characteristics may be seen in the views and actions of Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz? How were each tested on the "threshing-floor" of judgment?
5. For application and expansion, discuss what might have happened if either Ruth or Boaz had allowed their standards to slip. Who really gets big character credits in all of this? Why?