

Ruth 3:10-18- Boaz's Response

Boaz is a picture of our God. Our God came to rescue us, to be the avenger of blood, to redeem and to care for us.

Boaz's response to Ruth gives us a glimpse of how our God responds to us.

1. Praises

A. Boaz praises her action.

- praises her for noticing him
- praises her for seeing past the age difference
- praises her boldness for approaching him

He was pleased with her action, so he praises her!

B. Boaz praises her character.

"Noble character": strength, integrity, virtue. This same word for noble is used when referencing a hero in scripture. A hero would be known as a mighty man of valor, known for strength, integrity and virtue.

Boaz's heroic character is worth praising too. He was gracious and patient. He spoke honorably to her. His response was kind.

The things Boaz was praising her for were not man-made characteristics, but the work of God in her life!

If Boaz praises Ruth, how much more does our God praise us? God is not praising us because we're good. Zephaniah's (Zeph. 3:17) prophecy was talking to a sinful Judah. They lacked godliness and purity, but our God is a God of restoration and hope! The verses say he will rejoice in the work he's done!

All our best deeds are as filthy rags, but His work in us is good and praiseworthy!

2. Promises

There is another family redeemer closer in relation so Boaz could not just automatically accept this role unless this closer family-redeemer gave up his rights towards Ruth.

He's promising if the other man won't be her redeemer he will. He's not just promising to be a redeemer in terms of paperwork, but promising to be her husband: her provider, listener, faithful partner.

If Boaz promises Ruth, how much more does our God promise to us?

The bible is full of God's promises: over 8,000 promises in the entire Bible

Standing on the promises of God is to have complete assurance in their fulfillment and to live one's life in faithful service to the One who made those promises.

When God promises you can count on it! We know this because of Jesus. Every promise and prophecy were fulfilled in Jesus!

“Satan promises the best but pays with the worst; He promises honor and pays with disgrace; He promises pleasure and pays with pain; He promises profit and pays with loss; He promises life and pays with death. (Lou Nicholes - Missionary/Author).”

God is a promise keeper. We must stand on his promises!

3. Protects

Boaz protects her from the dangers of night...“wait until morning.”

Boaz protects her purity. He would not touch her until she was rightfully his.

Boaz protects her reputation. He didn't want others to gossip about her.

Boaz also protects the other possible family redeemer. He knew to handle this properly that he needed to talk with the other man first.

If Boaz protects, how much more does God protect us?

It's easy to think of God's protection as a magic force field that keeps us from all harm. It's a neat thought, but it's not accurate.

God can prevent harm, but we live in a broken world, and we've been given the ability to make choices. And ultimately God works in ways that we do not understand. Rather than looking at God's protection as a force field that's only one form of protection, we should look at God's protection as multi-formatted because His power and ability is unlimited!

God's promise of protection does not guarantee that we will never know pain or loss. Job's story shows us that though God is able to deliver us out of every difficulty, but it may not be His will to do so. Protecting us from trials is not always beneficial to us. Therefore, we must trust in the goodness of our Redeemer.

Internal forms of protection: peace, strength to be bold and stand up when necessary

Because of the blood of Jesus our spiritual protection is signed and sealed! God has won ultimate victory over our souls.

We are humans living in a broken world, so we still need to fight smaller, daily battles. God has equipped us to do so through spiritual armor and His own peace that He promises to guard our hearts and minds as we trust Him.

We can't let "that stuff" distract us from what God has called us to do. We are called to love and serve Him where he leads us. We are called to love the people He puts in our path. We are called to hate our own sin and deal with it. Then let God deal with everything else.

4. Provides

Boaz provides so much for Ruth: his fields, protection with his workers, extra grain

If Boaz provides this for Ruth, how much more does our God provide for us?

Our God owns everything! He is able to provide whatever resource we are lacking and provide it in more ways than we can ever imagine!

Ruth had the blessings, but she did not officially have the blesser!

Blessings are great but until we have a committed, personal relationship with the Blesser then we won't be complete!

Kind humans point us to our kind God but so do the unkind, terrible ones. Their shortcomings remind us that humans will fail us, but God will not. Both kinds of people remind us how good and perfect and faithful our God is!

We have a God that won't disappoint. He sees us, loves us and delights in us! We must look to him to love us unconditionally.

Chapter 3 points us to the ultimate family redeemer, our perfect God, who praises, promises, protects and provides.

Homework Questions: Read Ruth 3:10-18

1. Why do responses matter?
2. Explain in your own words how Boaz responded to Ruth.
3. How is Boaz a "picture" of our God? Why is it important to remember that he's only a "pic?"
4. What specific things is Boaz praising Ruth for?
5. If Ruth had chosen to stay in Moab would these same things be said of her? Why or why not?
6. Read Zephaniah 3:17. What is God rejoicing in?
7. Read Romans 7. What does this verse tell us about our condition?

8. How do we know Boaz wanted to do things God's way?
 9. Define in your own words what it means to "sit on the promises of God" vs "standing on the promises of God."
 - 10.. What does Jesus' coming prove about God's promises?
 11. What is a promise of God that has been the most meaningful to you in this season of your life? Explain.
 - 12.. "*Satan promises the best but pays with the worst; He promises honor and pays with disgrace; He promises pleasure and pays with pain; He promises profit and pays with loss; He promises life and pays with death. (Lou Nicholes - Missionary/Author).*"
- Why do we need to be on guard against Satan's schemes?
What is a practical way that you are currently doing that?
13. Why is viewing God's protection in only one form detrimental?
 14. What are some ways you've seen God's protection in your own life?
 15. Read Job 42:1-6. What benefit(s) did Job experience in his difficulty?
 16. Read Exodus 14:14 and Isaiah 41:10. What do these verses reveal to us about God as our protector? How does that impact the way we view life's difficulties?
 17. Why is Ruth incomplete as chapter 3 closes?
 18. Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus? How do you know?
 19. How do kind humans point us to God? How do unkind humans point us to God?
 20. How is your life impacted by believing that God is our ultimate family redeemer?

Resources: blueletterbible.org, biblestudytools.com, CSB Women's Study Bible, desirggod.org, gotquestions.org, Christianity.com, NLT Study Bible, Charles Spurgeon Study Bible, insight.org, familytimes.net