

Ruth 3:1-10- No Man Can Do What Only God Was Intended To

Our plans lead to learning experiences and reveal truths to us.

1. The Plan

Rest in this verse "signifies the condition of a peaceful, secure life under the guardian care of a husband. The plan is to find security for Ruth.

“What does a God-saturated man, a God-dependent young woman, and a God-exalting older woman do when they are filled with hope in the sovereign goodness of God? And the answer is that they manifest a "strategic righteousness." By *righteousness* I mean a zeal for doing what is good and right—a zeal for doing what is appropriate when God is taken into account as sovereign and merciful. By *strategic* I mean that there is intention, purposefulness, planning. There is a passive righteousness which simply avoids evil when it presents itself. But strategic righteousness takes the initiative and dreams of how to make things right.” (John Piper)

God ordained it. God orchestrated it, but is using Naomi to help implement it. God does the same thing in our lives today. He doesn't need us but lets us be a part of his work!

Most all girls want to be rescued and protected. What we see here is that our desire for human security points us to our need for Godly security.

Humanity reminds us that people were never intended to be the place we find true security.

This desire to find security in a strong protector is a desire that God gave us to draw us to himself.

Naomi's plan to find earthly security for Ruth reminds us that true we find our ultimate rest and security in God alone!

We can experience ultimate security in God today by seeking Him, trusting Him and depending on Him.

2. The Plot

In the culture of that day, Ruth's actions would have represented total submission.

Ruth is not flippantly submitting to just any man. She could confidently submit to him because of who he was: a goel- kinsman redeemer.

Naomi had explained to Ruth that Boaz was a potential kinsman redeemer.
-kinsman- male relative

-redeemer- one who provides redemption

Ruth was hopeful that Boaz would claim this responsibility, but it was not guaranteed. Man is not a guarantee, but God is!

Submitting goes against everything in our flesh. Ruth shows us the beauty of submission.

Submission is a picture of the gospel. Jesus the Son submitted to the Father and humbly laid down his life. Our response to Jesus' submission is submission to him and those he puts in authority over us. Therefore, as followers of Jesus we deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow him.

There is protection in submission. There is safety in submission.

If we're struggling to submit to the authority in our life it's not a submission problem, but a God problem. It reveals something is not right in our life.

Any sin is an abomination to our holy God. We are to hate our sin no matter how big or small it seems to us.

Ruth didn't submit to Boaz because of his perfect performance but because of the position he held in her life. She showed him that by taking a humble position "under his rank" she understood the protection and safety that was found in submitting God's way.

If we want success in God's kingdom, we must do things God's way. Submission must be an active, ongoing part of our life.

Ruth's submission reminds us of our need for submission. We need to submit to God first because it helps us not only remember our rank, but He then strengthens us to submit to the God ordained authority in our daily life.

God doesn't just tell us to submit. He demonstrated it. He humbled himself for us. If God can do this for us, then we can humble ourselves for his purposes and glory.

3.The Plea

Ruth is pleading with Boaz to be their kinsman redeemer.

The phrase "Take me under your wing" can also be translated as "spread the corner of your garment over me" or "I am a widow, take me as your wife."

Ruth is pleading for Boaz to satisfy the need in her life and family.

Ruth reminds us that our need for human satisfaction reveals to us our bigger need for spiritual satisfaction in Jesus. Humans were never meant to carry the burden of trying to completely satisfy us because humans were never meant to satisfy us! Our humanity points us to the only One who can completely satisfy.

No human can do what only God was meant to do. No human can provide true lasting security. No human can perfectly submit. No human can truly satisfy us.

As we look to God alone to satisfy us, he is faithful to do so. As a result, it brings great joy and hope to our lives. When we're full of joy and hope it'll overflow out of us and we'll impact a dying world!

4. Place

This place changes the trajectory of Ruth's life.

Threshing floor is defined as a place of separation and revelation in harvest.

Our threshing floors are where God works to makes us more like himself. This is sanctification.

Our threshing floor can also be a place of worship: where we cooperate with His process, where we admit our need for Him and where we submit to his Lordship.

In this place God directs our life and we leave this place secure, submissive, satisfied and sanctified in Him and because of Him OUR kinsman redeemer.

Homework Questions

Read Ruth 3:1-10

Describe a time when you made a plan and it failed. What did you learn?

Describe a time when you made a plan and it succeeded. What did you learn?

How can we learn from one another's successful and failed plans?

Explain strategic righteousness in your own words.

Why is it important to think about how God created us? (desires, characteristics, etc.)

How does our specific design draw us back to him?

Why are we naturally inclined to look to humans for security? Why is that dangerous?

What are some practical ways you can guard against looking for security in the wrong places?

Why is understanding the culture at the time important to understanding the text?

How could not understanding the culture be detrimental in the study of these passages?

What symbolism do you see in our text? Explain.

Define threshing floor.

What spiritual truths do you see in the "threshing floor?"

Why does submission go against our flesh?

Why is submission healthy for the Christian life? What does our lack of submission reveal?

Read Rom. 12:9

What are we to hate? Give examples.

What are we to cling to? Give examples.

What are some sins in your life that you have been justifying rather than hating?

What do you need to do with that sin?

Why is justifying our sin dangerous?

Read Phil 2:1-11. What truths do you find in those verses that help you live the successful, Christian life?

What are some things that need to change in your life based on those verses?

Read Ezekiel 16:8. What connection do you see between it and our verses in Ruth?

Who is the only one that can truly satisfy us? Why?