

Ruth

Ruth 2:2-12, 17-20; 3:1-13; 4:1-11, 13-15

Based on NLT (2004)

Transition

There was a family with two sons. Both sons married, but later, the father and both sons died, leaving the widow alone with her daughters-in-law. The widow, Naomi, decided to go back to her native place. One daughter-in-law, Ruth, went with her.

Ruth 2:2-12

One day Ruth ...went out to gather grain behind the harvesters in order to gather food for her and Naomi...And as it happened, she found herself working in a field that belonged to Boaz, a relative of Naomi's...While she was there, Boaz arrived...and greeted the harvesters...Boaz

discovered that Ruth was his relative and went over and said to her, "Listen, my daughter. Stay right here with us when you gather grain; don't go to any other fields...See which part of the field they are harvesting, and then follow them. I have warned the young men not to treat you roughly. And when you are thirsty, help yourself to the water they have drawn from the well."

Ruth fell at his feet and thanked him warmly. "What have I done to deserve such kindness?" she asked... "Yes, I know," Boaz replied. "But I also know about everything you have done for your mother in-law since the death of your husband...May...the God of Abraham's descendants, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done..."*

Ruth 2:17-20

So Ruth went home and told Naomi all that had happened that day with Boaz... "May God bless him!" Naomi told her daughter in-law. "He is showing his kindness to us as well as to your dead husband. That man is one of our closest relatives, one of our family redeemers who is responsible for taking care of us."*

Ruth 3:1-13

One day Naomi said to Ruth, "My daughter, it's time that I found a permanent home for you, so that you will be provided for. Boaz is a close relative of ours, and he's been very kind by letting you gather grain with his young women...So, because he had the responsibility of taking care of the family, they asked Boaz to marry Ruth... Boaz agreed and exclaimed, "God bless you, my daughter!...I will redeem you to take care of you!"...

Ruth 4:1-11

Boaz went to the town gate where all the business was conducted and sat down. Boaz talked to the town elders, and said that he wanted to take Ruth as his wife... Boaz said, "This way she can have a son to carry on the family name of her dead husband and to inherit the family property here in his hometown. You are all witnesses today."

Then the elders and all the people standing in the gate replied, "We are witnesses! May God make this woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, from whom all the nation of Abraham's descendants descended!..."

Ruth 4:13-15

So Boaz took Ruth into his home, and she became his wife...she *had* a son. Then the women of the town said to Naomi, “Praise *God*, who has now provided a redeemer for your family! May this child be famous in *this nation of Abraham’s descendants*...

1. What is Ruth’s character like? How do you know?
2. What do you think was Ruth’s motivation for the things she did? The things she did for/with Naomi? For/with Boaz?
3. How do you think Ruth became this way? What about her life experiences may have contributed to her character?
 - a. Trace her life experiences. Look at each thing she faced. What decision did she make at each juncture? How did her decision at that moment affect her character for the future?
4. Think about the motivation behind the things you do with your husband and with his family. Do they match Ruth’s?
 - a. If you see things that you want to change about the way you interact with your husband and/or his family, ask God to help you do that...
 - b. What decision points are you at now? What are your choices in making these decisions? What would choosing different reactions mean for the future of your character?