

In Ruth 3 we see an interesting effort to gain favor, quickly. Ruth, following Naomi's instruction, goes to the threshing floor at night to lay at Boaz's feet and ask to come under his wing of protection and provision. Boaz responds favorably, but points out that he is not the closest kinsman redeemer and promises to resolve the matter with this other relative the next day. Before sending Ruth back to Naomi, he shows generosity to her, demonstrating solid character.

Ruth 3

An unconventional Love Story

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

God's timing is often not our timing. One of the most difficult aspects of living out the Christian life is cultivating patience. It may be patience for those who are difficult to love, patience for the "things" we long for, or maybe patience in our own ability to grow through things we just can't seem to overcome. Patience is truly a virtue difficult to mature in.

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

HOW patient of a person are you?

WHAT are some of the ways you've learned to grow in patience, whether by steps you've actively taken or circumstances God has given you?

CAN you share of a time you were forced to take matters into your own hand to accomplish an urgent need?

HAVE you ever found yourself crossing a line, perhaps discovering after the fact, that you were actually playing God, doing more than you should have in order to gain a particular result in attaining something you wanted badly?

Ruth 3

An unconventional Love story

Read Ruth 3

OBSERVATION

According to verse 2, what detail do we discover about Boaz?

What is Naomi's counsel for Ruth in verses 3-4?

List all the details you can gather from the text regarding Ruth's pursuit of Boaz (Where did she go, how did she go, when did she go...?)

What important detail does Boaz reveal to Ruth in verse 12?

How does Boaz end his meeting with Ruth as the chapter closes?

INTERPRETATION

How has Naomi's attitude changed since chapter one when she despaired of Ruth ever getting married again? How would you account for this change?

What do you think of Naomi's advice to Ruth in "advancing" toward Boaz? Would you call this good or bad advice and why?

What do you perceive to be Naomi's desired outcome of Ruth and Boaz's interaction? Why is she working so hard to accomplish this? (Consider Ruth 1:9-12 for perspective)

What does Ruth mean when she asks Boaz to "spread his wings over her"?

Boaz says that he is a kinsman redeemer in verse 12. What is a kinsman redeemer and what responsibilities do they have? (Consider Leviticus 25:25; 35: 47-49; Numbers 35:19; Deuteronomy 25:5-10)

What do you conclude about Boaz's character from this passage? How do you draw your conclusion?

APPLICATION

What is the thing (or things) that you are most prone to take into your own hands, rather than trust God?

What might be some first steps in handing those things over to the Lord?