**Week of Aug 18, 2019**

**Ruth 3:1-6,8-12, 16-18**

1 Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee? 2 And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor. 3 Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking. 4 And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do. 5 And she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do. 6 And she went down unto the floor, and did according to all that her mother in law bade her. 7 And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down. 8 And it came to pass at midnight\*, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet. 9 And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman. 10 And he said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst\* not young men, whether poor or rich. 11 And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman. 12 And now it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I.

16 And when she came to her mother in law, she said, Who art thou, my daughter? And she told her all that the man had done to her. 17 And she said, These six measures of barley gave he me; for he said to me, Go not empty unto thy mother in law. 18 Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day.

**Understanding the Scriptures**

In today’s lesson we resume in the book of Ruth with Ruth as its main character. The practical purpose of the book is to teach the providence of God in blessing the children (even finding the right mate). The story reveals the love of God toward women, as well as men, and makes it clear that God has a special and uique purpose for the family. In continuation of last week’s lesson, Naomi and Ruth have arrived in Bethelem. Ruth and been working in a field that belonged to Boaz. Boaz allowed Ruth to glean and ordered that Ruth be well-treated by his workers. Boaz instructions followed the law in Leviticus 23:22 regarding the poor and foreigner. When Ruth told this to her mother-in-law, Naomi recognized the name as a distant relative to her husband and thus their near kinsman-redeemer!

Naomi instructed Ruth on how to approach Boaz to persuade him to marry her. According to the custom, Ruth was to go to the threshing floor, uncover Boaz’s feet, lie down and then wait for instructions from Boaz. Ruth did as she was told. Ruth suggested to Boaz they marry by the symbolic act of “spreading the corner of your garment over me. Spreading the cloak over someone symbolized protection and the intent to marry. Also, it would remind Boaz of his obligation as a near kinsman-redeemer.

A kinsman-redeemer is the relative who restores or preserves the property ownership rights of poor family members. Boaz agreed to redeem the family property and take Ruth as his wife. Boaz focused on the goldy character of Ruth and considered her to be a decent, honorable and worthy woman.

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