

THE PROMISE OF REST

--RUTH 3:1-18--

INTRODUCTION:

As we get into our passage this morning, we are going to see the kinsman-redeemer become a larger part of this history of Ruth as we continue to see God's sovereignty as He orchestrates all that takes place between Ruth and Boaz to bring about His purpose for Ruth and His plan of redemption for the world.

Another theme that is explored in the chapter that we will be in this morning is the promise of rest. This theme is seen in the beginning of the chapter with Naomi seeking rest for Ruth and ends with the confidence that Boaz will not rest until he has provided rest for Ruth. As we will see, this promise of rest in this chapter is actually a gift of God, who is sovereignly overruling all things for the good of those involved.

I. A PLAN FOR REST (Ruth 3:1-5)

- a. Naomi was excited when she heard that the man that Ruth had worked with in the field was _____.
- b. Moving into this new chapter the harvest is over and now the winnowing begins, which brings the threshing _____ as the center of activity.
- c. Naomi knows that Boaz will camp there with his men to _____ his crop.
- d. Naomi instructs Ruth in her _____.

II. A PROPOSAL FOR REST (Ruth 3:6-8)

- a. Verse 6 finds _____ going out to the threshing floor.
- b. This is the moment that Naomi and Ruth had planned for and true to her instructions, Ruth had remained _____ until she was spoken to by Boaz.

III. A PROMISE FOR REST (Ruth 3:10-15)

- a. What Boaz may have never thought possible has become _____ and he is clearly smitten.

- b. In reality it is Naomi who had _____ Boaz for Ruth because it was Naomi's plan.
- c. Boaz makes a _____ to Ruth before their conversation is over.

IV. A PERIOD OF NO REST (Ruth 3:16-18)

- a. This chapter, like the chapter before it, ends with Ruth _____ to Naomi.
- b. This time, however, she returns with even stronger grounds for _____.
- c. Ruth returns home bursting with _____ and Naomi meets her and breathlessly asks, "Who are you, my daughter?"

CONCLUSION:

As I said at the beginning of this message, a main theme in this chapter has to do with the search for rest. This is what the chapter opened with, Naomi seeking rest for her daughter-in-law. This search for rest is a search for wellness. "*Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, 'My daughter, shall I not seek **rest** for you, that it may be **well** with you?'*" (Ruth 3:1, NASB95) Wellness is the opposite of emptiness and alienation. It is a search for acceptance, inclusion, provision, a future, and a life worth living. This search for rest is a search that every person goes on. In Ruth's search we are shown two things that are fundamental to the success of this search for rest.

The first thing is initiative—the ability to see an opportunity when it presents itself and the will to seize it. The second principle this chapter teaches us is rest, in the way the Bible speaks of it, is fundamentally a gift and cannot be achieved by striving alone. One must learn to trust.

The Lord blesses all who seek Him and His promise to them is rest, rest from spiritual emptiness and alienation from Him. And the means of delivering that rest to them is a Redeemer whom He has provided. Only two things are necessary for our search for this rest to be successful, to seek it and to believe God's promise to give it to us. (Matthew 11:28) Rest is found in Christ alone.

