

2151 - BOAZ the REDEEMER - Ruth 3:1-18

PRELIMS. Ruth has been ‘called out’ from Moab by God’s grace and Providence. Through many heart-rending experiences she has joined the people of God in Judah. She has now been introduced to her Kinsman-Redeemer, Boaz, who is a real type of Christ! He has **Provided** for her, **Protected** her and **Promised** her all he can do.

The Covenant people, had a very strong **family care programme!** The Law of God provided for **family duties** to one another. **Family responsibilities!** We saw how Ruth is taking ‘care’ of Naomi! But it is **reciprocal!** Its each helping each other. Naomi taught Ruth about Jehovah - Ruth is providing for Naomi - and now *My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you* [1]!

N was aware that the **relationship** which **already existed** with Boaz, could be **deepened/strengthened!** *Is not Boaz our relative ...?*, then **that relationship** can be **improved!** He which supplies your **daily bread** can become your **personal redeemer!** **APP** Thus we have ‘**improve your baptism!**’ Covenant people have a **relationship** with God in their **baptism** which can be **deepened** by an intimate and **personal commitment** of trust regarding their **salvation!**

The **benefit** of Xn fellowship – N knows the ‘whereabouts’ of Boaz *he is winnowing barley tonight* [2] (God’s people know where you are most likely to find Christ!) and she gives **advice** to R! *Wash... anoint...put on your cloak...go down...* [3]! R **accepts** the advice in good faith *obey them that have the rule over you... for they watch for your souls* She knew N had her good at heart!

Nothing **improper** or **immoral** or **indecent** in [9]! *Spread your wings...* Everything here was in **accord** with the **prevailing customs** of **Hebrew culture** and **Oriental customs/manners!** *When I passed by you...I spread the corner of my garment* (same Heb word=kanaf) *over you...I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord, and you became mine* [Ezek 16:8] The term *spread your wings (or the corner of your garment) over your servant* is a **term to describe** the **duty** of a relative who was a kinsman-redeemer! Note **for** (because ‘ci’) *you are a redeemer* [9c] **In that culture** servants **lay crossways** in a ‘T’ shape at the foot of their

masters when sleeping in the same tent. They did **not** sleep ‘side-by-side’ in parallel! Neither was Boaz necessarily **drunk** but in good spirits and relaxed as many of us are after a good meal!

What was R **doing** when she asked Boaz to spread his wings over her? She was **not** proposing **marriage**; she was **not** asking a **favour**! She was **reminding** Boaz of **his obligations** as a kinsman-redeemer! **APP** In prayer, you do **not ask** Christ ‘**Will** He be a Saviour’ – He **is** a Saviour! R did **not** ask Boaz would he be a redeemer, he **was** her kinsman-redeemer! *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour Christ the Lord* [L2:11] R was reminding Boaz of **His Office** as a redeemer – reminding him of his ‘**calling**’! Christ came to this earth to save us...*for therefore am I sent!* [L4:43] Peter said: *there is salvation in no one else there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved* [Acts 4:12]

It is His **work**, it is His business, to **receive sinners** because He **is** a Saviour! So, **ask** Christ to **cover** you *with the garments of salvation* and to **cover** you with *the robe of righteousness* [Isa 61:10]

Ruth was **coming to** and **engaging with** her redeemer! **APP** So **you** must (in prayer) come and engage with the Lord Jesus Christ, the **only** Redeemer of sinners, **remembering** that He said *whoever comes to Me, I will never cast out* [J6:37] What a wonderful promise! All of us here tonight already **have a relationship** with Jesus Christ. As **covenant** people **baptised** in His name, we have an ‘**relationship**’ with Him that the world do not have! We come, with **His name on us**, to acknowledge Him, and His kindness, and to remind Him that we are lost sinners and need **His salvation**.

APP Have you ‘**awakened**’ Christ to take a special interest in you – as Ruth **awakened** Boaz here – *the man was startled!* [8] Do you **seriously** want to be His bride? Then **urge** Him to **play** His part as a kinsman-redeemer to you! Tell him **exactly all** your ‘**business**’! Boaz asked R *Who are you?* [9] **Who do you think you are?** She told him exactly who she was. **APP** You tell Christ who you are – **what** you have **done**, what you **need**! Tell Him you are a **sinner** and you have come for **salvation**! Tell Him you **believe** He is the only Saviour and you have come for that salvation! Tell Him **all your business** – tell

Him everything, your doubts, your concerns, your fears, your misunderstandings, your difficulties in understanding some of the ‘mysteries’ of the kingdom - but that you **trust** Him!

You have **nothing to fear** in ‘**approaching**’ Jesus! That is one of the most outstanding qualities in Jesus – although He **is** the most Majestic, Awesome Person in the Universe, yet He is **most approachable**! Notice how **children** were always ‘hanging about’ Jesus - because He is **unforbidding**! Nothing to fear in coming to X

Boaz **commends** R – that she did **not** run after the **young** men, and she did **not** run after the **rich** men![10]! **APP** What interests you most in life – the world of the **rich/famous**? The world of the **young** and **carefree**? Is it the **material** and the **hedonistic** values that interest you – or the **spiritual** and **long-term treasures** at God’s right hand? *It’s really a matter of **belief**! Do you **really** believe there **are pleasures** at God’s right hand? Better than the world’s pleasures?

*Xns **are witnesses** (without realizing it)!! Boaz replied immediately *all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman*[11] **How** did they know? Because people **notice Xns** - and **comment**! **APP**!

Boaz **assures** her that he will indeed play the part of a kinsman-redeemer *my daughter, do not fear, I will do for you all that you ask* [11]! **APP** Christ, will indeed, do all that is right and proper and for your good! He **will** take care of your future! *The Ladies BS this week were studying Kindness as the fruit of the Spirit. Well, here, Boaz confirms his love for Ruth by loading her with goods *he measured out six measures of barley and put it on her* [15]! It was a true mark of Boaz’s **godliness**, but it also **assured** Ruth Boaz would **fulfil all His promises** of caring for all her **concerns/responsibilities** *You must not go back empty-handed to your mother-in-law* [17]

A **precaution**! He asks her to be careful that they are not seen – for although nothing whatever has happened that is improper, it might **appear** as if there was - an occasion for people ‘to talk’! *Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor* [14] We must not give an occasion for the enemies of the Lord to speak! **APP** I think this is something that has disappeared even in Xn circles – we are **not sensitive** to how our **conduct** and **lifestyle** may be

interpreted by the world. We have a **responsibility** to avoid the very **appearance** of evil! [1Thes 5:22]

*So Ruth has been successful in drawing attention to Boaz of his responsibilities as a kinsman-redeemer. But there's a **BIG problem!** Boaz clearly says *I will do for you all that you ask... **YET there is a redeemer nearer than I*** [12] I am not really the next of kin! Naomi & Ruth probably did not know about this next of kin - but he was there!

This is all the more wonderful of Boaz. **Not** being the **next** of kin, Boaz has actually **no real duty** towards Ruth – it is the **'next of kin's'** responsibility to **find** out **his** responsibilities – it is not really Boaz's responsibility to do this! But you see, Boaz **loves** Ruth and would love her to become his wife! So out of love for her he goes to see the real 'next of kin'!! He wants everything to be **done legally!**

What a **type of Christ** he is! X too wants His Bride to be **legally** His! In the Court of Heaven, He has to 'put everything right' **before** the Judge, **God!** He had to pay the ransom price before He could legally purchase His Bride! **APP X**, out of **love** to His Bride - **not obligation**, did all He had to do to purchase His Bride!! For Jesus Christ was **not obligated** to save us! He could have stayed in heaven, and said, 'What a shame that they sinned and disobeyed' and left it at that without coming to save anyone at all!! All of grace and love!

So, Ruth would have to wait until the morning - at least! The great things of life require **patience!** God had so **ordained** that! *through faith **and** patience they inherited the promises* [Heb 6:12]!

Ruth was **human** and had, like the rest of us, fears, doubts, longings, hopes!! **Did** she **sleep** that night? Maybe she had the best sleep of her life! But maybe she did not sleep at all! Too **excited!!**

Two Extremes! She probably **vacillated** between the two: (a) **undue speculation!** Her hopes and dreams would be running ahead of her! Nappies on the washing line! Filled with joy! (b) **unwarranted fear!** What if the next of kin **accepted** – and he was a **wretch**, who would give her a hard life! Filled with fear! *N comforted her: *Wait my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest but will settle the matter today* [18]!