

## The Hope of a Mother

Ruth 3:1-4

If you have never taken the time to read the book of Ruth, I would encourage you to do so. It is a wonderful story of redemption and grace. Naomi, her husband, and sons left Bethlehem in the midst of a drought and went to dwell in Moab. While there, her sons married wives. As time went on, Naomi lost her husband, and both of her sons. She found herself dwelling in a foreign land with her daughters-in-law. Hearing that bread was now available in Bethlehem, Naomi made the decision to leave Moab and go home. Orpah, one of her daughters-in-law, decided to remain in Moab, but Ruth was determined to go with Naomi. Having no family in Bethlehem, Ruth depended upon Naomi for guidance. Although they were both adult women, Naomi made a significant impact on the life of Ruth. In fact, Naomi was instrumental in Ruth's marriage to Boaz.

Today we celebrate Mother's Day. Many of you know the joy of having children, and we are here to celebrate with you as well. Also, I am aware that some never have children, but that doesn't mean their lives are somehow less significant. God has called some women to serve like Naomi, assuming the role of a mother for those who may not have their mother in their life. Just like Naomi, you can and do make a significant impact on the lives of others.

This text serves as a challenge for each of us. We all have the opportunity to impact the lives of others, especially those who are walking with the Lord. Let's take a few moments to examine the [details](#) of this passage as we consider: [The Hope of a Mother](#).

**I. The Desire of Naomi** (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?](#) We find the compassionate desire Naomi had for Ruth; she wanted her to enjoy rest. This implies much more than a physical rest after a hard day of labor. It speaks of "*a resting place, a place of settled security and stability, a permanent home, a place of provision and protection.*" As we ponder Naomi's desire for rest, consider:

**A. The Necessity** – Ruth had been blessed with the opportunity to glean in the field of Boaz, but at this time the harvest was coming to an end. Soon there would be no more grain in the field to glean. She needed the assurance of rest, a place of provision and security for the weeks and months to come. They did not have enough to sustain them after the harvest had ended.

- Many today are looking to this world to afford that rest. It seems as if they are doing quite well right now. They have all that they need as far as they can see. Most don't consider that the harvest will soon be over and we will all stand before the Lord. All who have ever lived need the

rest of Christ. [Heb.4:9 – There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.](#) <sup>[11]</sup> [Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.](#)

**B. The Security** (1) – Keep in mind the principle of rest. It involves a home, a place of provision and protection. Ruth was a widow from Moab; a Gentile whom most would not even consider providing rest. Boaz was her only hope. He was the only one who could provide the rest she so desperately needed. She needed a proposal of marriage from Boaz. Naomi knew that, and sought to provide guidance and wisdom for Ruth.

▪ There are those today who need to understand the nature of rest. Sinners, like Ruth, need to find a place of provision, security, and stability. They need to find peace within their soul. Christ the Lord is the only one who has the ability to provide that rest. He is mankind's only hope of rest and redemption. Apart from Christ there is no rest, only separation and condemnation. Our world needs to see their need and accept Christ. As believers, we need to share the rest we have found with others and encourage them to seek that rest as well.

**II. The Discernment of Naomi** (2) – [And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor.](#) Naomi knew Ruth needed someone to serve as a kinsman redeemer to redeem her – someone who could pay the debt she owed, and make provision for her future. Naomi knew it was not just a chance encounter that Ruth had gleaned in the field of Boaz. She was familiar with Boaz. Notice:

**A. The Ability of Boaz** (2a) – [And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast?](#) Boaz qualified as a kinsman redeemer. It would have done Ruth no good to depend upon one who could not redeem. It would have been useless to seek after one that offered no hope of marriage and rest. I want to quickly review the significance of Boaz.

➤ **His Relationship** – In order to qualify as a kinsman redeemer, the man had to be willing to redeem, but he also was required to be a kinsman. Boaz qualified as a near kinsman.

Christ our Lord took on the form of a man, robed in a body of flesh. He came to this earth and lived a perfect, sinless life as a Spirit filled Man. He has the right relationship to perform the part of our Redeemer. We can be accepted into the family of God because of our relationship to Christ.

➤ **His Resources** – [Boaz was a mighty man of wealth, Chp.2:1](#). The kinsman had to be willing, but he also had to be able. He had to possess the resources necessary to redeem the debt that the needy party owed.

Consider the debt that we owed as sinners, separated from God, condemned in our sin, unable to achieve the righteous demands of a holy God. Had Christ not been willing to offer Himself as the Atonement for our sin, we would yet be without hope. He alone possessed what was necessary to purchase our redemption!

**B. The Availability of Boaz (2b)** – [Behold, he winnoweth barley to night in the threshingfloor](#). Naomi knew that Boaz could be found at the threshing floor, winnowing the barley that had been harvested. This was a significant place that has a profound application.

- A threshing floor was usually a raised platform built on a hill either out of hard clay or bedrock. The grain was separated from the stalk by beating the sheaves with a rod or by using an ox to trample the sheaves by pulling a cartwheel around the floor. Once the grain and husk had been separated, they were thrown up into the breeze. The breeze would blow the lighter husk away while the heavier grain fell to the floor.
- Christ our Lord was offered up as the Sacrifice for sin upon the hill of Calvary. He was beaten and scourged prior to the crucifixion. He bore the sins of humanity, feeling the pressure of their heavy weight.
- Ruth had to go to the threshing floor in order to meet Boaz. We too must come to the threshing floor of our Lord. The sin and impurities of our lives must be separated and cast away. After salvation, often storms are used to blow away the chaff to reveal the true grain.

**III. The Direction of Naomi (3-4)** – Here we discover the direction Naomi offered Ruth in order to meet Boaz. Consider:

**A. The Preparation (3a)** – Ruth was instructed to wash herself and anoint her body with sweet smelling perfume. Naomi wanted to make sure that she was clean and presentable. She wanted Ruth to smell good for Boaz.

- Cleansing is an essential part of salvation. When we come to Christ in faith, we are cleansed in His precious blood. The sins we have committed are washed away and we are made pure in Him. We then are filled with the Holy Spirit, anointed of God.

- As we travel this Christian journey, sin often fills our hearts again. If we are to enjoy sweet fellowship at the feet of our Lord we must get cleaned up. We must deal with the sin in our lives, seeking forgiveness and forsaking it. When we live a life that honors God, it is a sweet smelling savor to Him. I want my life to produce a pleasant odor rather than the stench of sin.

**B. The Presentation** (3a) – *Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor.* Ruth had come from Moab wearing the garments of a widow. Her attire revealed her desperation. While in Bethlehem she has worn the garments of a servant. Neither of these would do when it came to a personal meeting with Boaz. Ruth had to wear the very best she had.

- I'm glad the Lord provides a new garment for those who come to Him. We lay aside the garment of sin and death and are robed in the righteousness of God.
- There is something to be said about how Ruth presented herself to Boaz. We are robed in the righteousness of Christ at salvation, but we must guard against having our garment spotted by the world. We need to come before the Lord in our very best, outwardly and inwardly. We ought to desire to please Him every time we enter His presence.

**C. The Recognition** (4a) – *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.* Ruth didn't question Naomi in regard to Boaz's ability. She was confident that he was able to provide for her. We need that same confidence in Christ. Our faith doesn't make Him Lord or change who He is, but it sure helps in the journey! We must recognize Him as Lord and Savior of our lives.

**D. The Submission** (4b) – Ruth was told to lie down at the feet of Boaz and wait for his instruction. *He will tell thee what thou shalt do.* Ruth had to be patient and submissive. She was not there to make demands or force herself upon him. She was there to do as he commanded.

- We too must be committed to the will of God. There are times that we must wait at His feet. Often we must be patient while waiting upon the Lord. He doesn't always speak as often as we would like, but His way is always best. We just need to learn to wait and listen for a word from the Master.

**Conclusion:** There can be no doubt that Naomi played a significant role in the life of Ruth. Her commitment and wisdom guided Ruth to Boaz, the kinsman redeemer who would make provision

for one in need. I pray that every believer will share the unsearchable riches of God's grace with those who need to hear. We are celebrating Mother's Day, and I know that Mothers have a tremendous influence on their children, but we all should seek to point others to Christ while investing in their lives.

Are there needs in your life today? Do you need wisdom as you seek to offer guidance to another? Do you need strength to continue living your faith before others? Maybe you are like Ruth was at this moment in the text and stand in need of a kinsman redeemer. Christ paid the sin debt for humanity on the cross. There is forgiveness, reconciliation, and eternal life in Him. If you are yet unsaved, come to Christ today.