

Ruth 3

Introduction:

1. The book of Ruth provides an illustration of God's providential care for His children.
2. Review of ch.1:
 - a. During the time when the judges ruled Israel, a man named Elimelech took his family from Bethlehem to Moab because of a famine.
 - b. His wife was Naomi, and they had 2 sons: Mahlon and Chilion.
 - c. Elimelech died in Moab, leaving Naomi a widow.
 - d. Naomi's sons married women from Moab, but her sons died, leaving her childless.
 - e. Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem after she heard that the Lord had blessed her people by giving them bread.
 - f. Orpah remained in Moab, but Ruth went to Bethlehem with Naomi.
 - g. When Naomi returned to her home, she wanted to be called "Mara."
3. Review of ch.2:
 - a. After they returned to Bethlehem, Ruth went to glean some grain.
 - b. She gleaned in the field of Boaz, a wealthy relative of Elimelech.
 - c. Boaz was attracted to Ruth, and he saw that Ruth received plenty of grain.
 - d. (vs.20) Naomi was pleased that Ruth had gleaned in Boaz's field.
4. (ch.3) Ruth let Boaz know that she wanted him to marry her.

Discussion:

- I. LET US FIRST EXAMINE SEVERAL JEWISH LAWS
 - A. "The law of redemption"
 1. (Leviticus 25:23-24) The Jews could not sell their land on a permanent basis.
 - a. When the Israelites settled Canaan, it was divided among the tribes and families.
 - b. The land was to stay in each family.
 2. (Leviticus 25:25-28) If property had to be sold, it could be "redeemed" by a relative.
 - B. "The law of inheritance" (Numbers 27:8-11)
 - C. "The law of marriage for widows" [levirate marriage] (Deuteronomy 25:5-10)
- II. (3:1-5) NAOMI DEvised A PLAN FOR GETTING RUTH AND BOAZ TOGETHER
 - A. Boaz was "winnowing" [separating the chaff from the grain] his barley that night.
 - B. Naomi told Ruth to get dressed up and to go to the place where Boaz was working.
 - C. After Boaz went to sleep, Ruth was to lie down at his feet.
 - D. Ruth agreed to carry out this plan.
- III. (3:6-7) RUTH FOLLOWED NAOMI'S INSTRUCTIONS
- IV. (3:8-13) THE RESULTS:
 - A. Boaz woke up and found Ruth lying at his feet.
 1. He asked who she was.
 2. Ruth informed Boaz that she wanted him to perform the role of a near kinsman.
 - B. (vs.10-11) Boaz praised Ruth.
 1. She could have pursued a younger man, but she was obeying God's law.
 2. Boaz seemed to be happy to fulfill her request.
 3. Ruth had gained quite a reputation -- everyone knew that she was "a virtuous woman."
 - C. Unfortunately, there was a problem.
 1. (vs.12) There was a kinsman nearer than Boaz.
 2. However, Boaz said he would perform the role of a kinsman if the other relative would not.
- V. (3:14-18) RUTH RETURNED TO NAOMI
 - A. Ruth left before anyone could recognize her.
 - B. Boaz gave Ruth some barley to take home.
 - C. Ruth told Naomi what had happened.
 - D. Naomi was confident that Boaz would be diligent in taking care of the situation.