

## "Love and the Law: The Joyful Privilege of Obedience to God"

## Ruth 3:1-13

- Ruth 3:1-2, 5-6
  - Naomi is showing Ruth the whole of the Law (Mark 12:30-31) and specifically exhibiting to Ruth what has been shown to her (Matthew 7:12).
  - Naomi is also further teaching the Law to Ruth by assisting her in the Levirate Marriage Custom of Israel (Deuteronomy 25:5-10). There is also evidence, scripturally, that it was Naomi's responsibility as Ruth's mother(-in-law) to be a part of arranging her marriage (Judges 14:1-4).
  - Ruth was also showing honor to her mother(-in-law) in following her instructions (Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 8:3-20).
    - Submission in Christ will always lead to holiness. Submission to parents (Ephesians 6:1-2), submission to our earthly bosses (Ephesians 6:5); wives' submission to their husbands (Ephesians 5:22-23); citizens' submission to the government (Romans 13:1-7), and a Christians' submission to their Elders (Hebrews 13:17) will always lead to holiness, as long as they are not leading you to sin or leading outside of their realm of authority.
- Ruth 3:2-3, 7
  - The winnowing of barley at the threshing floor was a time of celebration of the harvest (Jeremiah 5:23-24; Ruth 1:1,6). This was a common practice to celebrate the harvest and provision of God but God was not always glorified in those celebrations (1 Samuel 25:11→Nabal; 2 Samuel 13:23-28→Absalom).
    - In the Jewish culture, drinking wine and having a celebration meal was a common practice (Acts 14:17; Psalm 104:14-15; Deuteronomy 14:26; 1 Corinthians 10:31) but drunkenness is always forbidden....
      - In Proverbs 20:1, we are told that drunkenness "is not wise." In Proverbs 23:20-21, we are told that drunkenness "will lead someone to poverty." In Ephesians 5:18, we are told "do not be drunk with wine." And lastly in Galatians 5:21, we are told "drunkards will not inherit the kingdom of heaven."
  - In Israel, it was a cultural practice to wash and anoint oneself when your time of mourning or sorrow had come to an end (Genesis 38:19; 2 Samuel 12:20; 2 Samuel 14:2; Ecclesiastes 9:7-8; Matthew 6:16-18). It was an expression that her mourning for her husband had ended and she was ready to remarry.
- Ruth 3:4,8-13
  - To throw a garment over a woman was a sign of a commitment to marry a woman (Ezekiel 16:8). Ruth is seeking Boaz to be her Goel (A family member that would redeem a widow and the property of her deceased husband and provide an heir to carry on the family name.) and to represent Yahweh in being the means God uses to provide, protect, and lead Ruth (Ruth 2:12). The blessings that Naomi and Boaz had desired for Ruth were coming to pass (Ruth 1:9; Ruth 2:12; Ruth 3:1).
    - This situation was not in any way like the situation in Numbers 25:1-5. Both Ruth and Boaz were followers of Yahweh.
  - Holiness (1 Peter 1:15-16; Leviticus 11:45) is not just seen in words but is also seen in action (Ruth 1:16-18; Ruth 2:11; Ruth 2:18; Ruth 3:11). It was a public testimony that she was a holy woman (1 Timothy 3:1-7).
    - Ruth did not go after the young men, that is, someone who was not a "redeemer." But instead she desired to obey the Word of God.
  - Boaz requests that Ruth stay until morning to protect her and Boaz's reputation by no one getting the wrong idea about what had happened between the two of them.