

### Ruth 3:1-5 Bridal Preparations

**3:1** Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?”

This word security means a \_\_\_\_\_ place, a permanent home. It’s a synonym of the word she used back in chapter 1 vs.9 **May the Lord grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband.**”, and so we see again that Boaz is being used by God to \_\_\_\_\_ a prayer.

When she says that she wants **Ruth to be well-situated, that it may be well with her**, she’s using a common idiom associated with \_\_\_\_\_ from God, and especially those blessings which come from \_\_\_\_\_ our covenant with Him, just as there are benefits in marriage of keeping our covenant with our \_\_\_\_\_. For example (Jer 7:23, Deut 4:40, Deut 5:16).

In their culture, it was customary for parents to \_\_\_\_\_ marriages for their children, and so Naomi is treating Ruth as her \_\_\_\_\_, by making sure that she finds security in the house of her husband.

**2** Now is not Boaz our <sup>[b]</sup>kinsman, with whose maids you were?

Everything that Naomi is going to say from now on, \_\_\_\_\_ on the fact that Boaz is their close kinsman. We can’t help but smile at her \_\_\_\_\_—this is a pretty big change for someone who wanted everyone to re-name her \_\_\_\_\_ only one chapter ago. Now, we see \_\_\_\_\_ Naomi. Naomi is going to make sure that whatever relationship has built up between Ruth and Boaz \_\_\_\_\_.

Now was a convenient time to remind Boaz of his family \_\_\_\_\_. It is Boaz’ demonstration of character over the past couple of months that has encouraged Naomi to \_\_\_\_\_ that he would fulfill his obligations. And she is looking for one thing from Boaz at this juncture—\_\_\_\_\_!

**Behold, he winnows barley at the threshing floor tonight.**

Winnowing grain is the process where the grain was \_\_\_\_\_ by pulling a heavy sled over it with bumps or stones laid into the bottom, so that it would crush the grain. Although they started harvesting barley, then moved on to harvesting wheat, they’re \_\_\_\_\_ finishing up the barley winnowing after all the wheat has all been harvested—meaning they had a lot more barley than wheat to harvest.

Israel was growing \_\_\_\_\_ more barley than wheat at this time in their history. Because Israel had \_\_\_\_\_ to drive out all of the tribes that God had intended them to, they didn’t have access to some of the more fertile lands in Israel, where the more nutritious wheat would grow.

In our own lives, we may not always understand why God is telling us to do something or not to do something. But, we should always \_\_\_\_\_. God knows what He is talking about, and will not steer us wrong. The only thing we can do wrong is \_\_\_\_\_ to obey God.

Winnowing time was traditionally considered a time of \_\_\_\_\_, since it was the last step that had to be accomplished in order to bring the \_\_\_\_\_ in.

**3** Wash yourself therefore, and anoint yourself and put on your best clothes, and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.

Naomi has four \_\_\_\_\_ that Ruth must accomplish

**Wash yourself**

Now our Lord Jesus accepts us and asks us to come to him as we are. When Ruth met Boaz, she was sweaty and \_\_\_\_\_ hard in the field—that’s how they met. But Ruth was now wanting a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with Boaz. In the Old Testament, the law required ceremonial \_\_\_\_\_ and changing \_\_\_\_\_ often was done before a special event. (e.g. Gen 35:1-2, Exo 19:10-11)

If we want to enter into a deeper relationship with the Lord, we must (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 7:1) **“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”** Or as James 4:8 tells us **Draw near to God and He will draw**

**near to you Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.** Or, as Jesus says in John 17:17 **Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.** We are cleansed and \_\_\_\_\_ as we read the Word and apply it to our lives.

### **Anoint yourself**

So Ruth is going to \_\_\_\_\_ herself with oil. Oil, in Old Testament and New Testament times was \_\_\_\_\_ on the skin for refreshment. It was a sign of abundance, so we read verses like Ecclesiastes 9:7-8 **7Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a cheerful heart, for God has already approved your works: 8“Let your clothes always be white, and never spare the oil for your head.”**

### **Put on your best clothes**

We also need to understand that Ruth is getting washed and dressed like someone getting \_\_\_\_\_. She's putting on her \_\_\_\_\_ outer garment, not her work clothes. She's going to \_\_\_\_\_ herself to Boaz and let him know that she wants him to be her kinsman redeemer.

### **go down to the threshing floor;**

She was to go down to the threshing floor where Boaz was, but she had to be careful:

### **but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.**

So, Naomi wanted to make sure that Boaz was in \_\_\_\_\_ spirits, after having a great meal and \_\_\_\_\_ the harvest. She was giving her plan the best chance possible to succeed.

### **4 It shall be when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies,**

Naomi says that Ruth will \_\_\_\_\_ notice the place on the threshing floor where Boaz lays himself down to sleep. Remember that this was before flashlights, and she couldn't very well light an oil lamp if she doesn't want to be \_\_\_\_\_ by everyone. Everyone looks pretty much the \_\_\_\_\_ in the dark when they're bundled up sleeping. I'm sure she did note carefully where Boaz laid himself down. After-all, she wouldn't want to \_\_\_\_\_ marriage to the wrong person!

### **and you shall go and uncover his feet and lie down;**

By uncovering his feet, she's probably making sure that, as the night got colder, he would \_\_\_\_\_ after everyone else was asleep, so that they could talk. But this also has another meaning. Remember, that everyone slept in their outer garments. This is why, in Exodus 22:26-7 God commands the Israelites that if they take a man's outer garment as collateral for a loan **If you ever take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge, you are to return it to him before the sun sets, 27 for that is his only covering; it is his cloak for his body. What else shall he sleep in?** When you put your outer garment over someone and \_\_\_\_\_ them with it, it meant that they were under your \_\_\_\_\_—that you were taking them in—keeping them from the cold, as it were.

### **5 She said to her, “All that you say I will do.”**

These instructions to Ruth are quite \_\_\_\_\_. Naomi is trusting in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Boaz, that he will not take unfair advantage of Ruth. She's trusting Ruth to follow her instructions \_\_\_\_\_, so that Boaz knows exactly what's being asked of him.

We're talking today about how Ruth prepared to meet the groom Boaz, and of course it calls to mind how we, throughout our Christian life are \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves, as a member of the Bride of Christ, to meet our \_\_\_\_\_ someday.

We wash with the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Word

We anoint with \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit

Put on our best clothes—covering us with the \_\_\_\_\_ acts of the saints as a garment

Go through the \_\_\_\_\_ floor of this life until we meet Jesus

But \_\_\_\_\_ is the one who ultimately gives us this ability to prepare to meet Jesus. These bridal preparations that Ruth goes through, and this preparation that we go through in our Christian lives is only made \_\_\_\_\_ by God. (Ezek 16:8-10). God is the one who \_\_\_\_\_ us, and spreads His skirt of \_\_\_\_\_ over us, just like Ruth asks Boaz to do.