



# THE BOOK OF RUTH

## *Lesson Four*

### *An Unusual Marriage Proposal*

Ruth 3:7-18

# The Book of Ruth

## Ruth 3:7

- “Uncovered his feet” is not a euphemism for a sexual act.
- A principle of hermeneutics: When interpreting scripture, “If the plain sense makes sense, seek no other sense.”
- It appears that Ruth uncovered his feet so they would get cold.

# The Book of Ruth

## Ruth 3:8

- Boaz's cold feet woke him up.
- When he sat up he saw Ruth.
- She was lying at his feet where a servant would lie.

# The Book of Ruth

## Ruth 3:9

- Again, no sexual connotation here.
- Ruth is asking for Boaz to act as her kinsman-redeemer.
- The word *Kanaph* (כַּנָּף) is translated “covering” in this verse.
- *Kanaph* is in the plural, and is usually translated “wings”,
- It can also mean the flap or corner of a blanket.
- To place the corner of a blanket on a woman signals the man’s intent to marry her.

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## Ruth 3:10

- Boaz greatly admires Ruth's character.
- Her “first kindness” was her devotion to Naomi.
- “Kindness” = chesed (חֶסֶד), meaning “loving-kindness”, also means “devotion to virtue”—the meaning here.
- Her “last kindness” was her “devotion to virtue” by honoring the Law of Moses.

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## Ruth 3:11

- Boaz states that he is willing to act as Ruth's kinsman-redeemer.
- He describes her in terms of “excellence” = *chayil* (חַיִּיל).
- The same word *chayil* is used to describe Boaz in Ruth 2:1 as a man of “wealth” or “valor”.

# The Book of Ruth

## Ruth 3:12-13

- Boaz reveals a complication that Ruth is not aware of.
- There is a closer relative that also qualifies as a kinsman-redeemer.
- Naomi probably neglected to tell Ruth this on purpose.
- Boaz handles things matter-of-factly.
- He does not think Ruth's approach to him as improper.

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## Ruth 3:14

- Ruth stays the night there but remains at his feet.
- Boaz and Ruth have acted with honor and virtue.
- Boaz wants no hint of impropriety, so Ruth rises while it is still too dark for anyone to see.



# The Book of Ruth

## Ruth 3:15-18

- Boaz makes sure Ruth does not go back empty handed.
- Giving Ruth a further gift of grain is a token of his willingness to act as her kinsman-redeemer.
- Ruth wants to know how things will turn out.
- But Naomi advises patience until she hears from Boaz.

# The Book of Ruth

## The Faith-Rest Life

1. God has given us thousands of promises—e.g.:

- Deut. 31:8
- Psa. 37:4-5
- Psa. 55:22
- Isa. 40:31
- Isa. 41:10
- John 3:16
- Matt. 6:31-33
- 1 Cor. 10:13
- Phil. 4:6-7

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## The Faith-Rest Life

### 2. The Definition of Faith-Rest:

*Faith-Rest is the means of claiming the promises of God and applying them to your own life circumstances.*

# The Book of Ruth

## The Faith-Rest Life

3. The Mechanics of Faith-Rest:
  - a. Learn the Promises of God.
  - b. Claim a promise.
  - c. Believe the promise.
  - d. Ask God for his leading.
  - e. Be patient—wait on God's solution

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## The Faith-Rest Life

4. The Characteristics of the Faith-Rest Life:
  - a. Having continuous, habitual faith.
  - b. Being diligent in application.
  - c. Understanding the Word of God – Heb. 4:12—it is:
    - 1) Living
    - 2) Powerful
    - 3) Sharper than any two-edged sword
    - 4) Piercing
    - 5) Able to judge the thoughts and intents of the heart.

# The Book of Ruth

## The Faith-Rest Life

- 4. The Characteristics of the Faith-Rest Life:
  - d. Being a witness to others.
  - e. Being able to handle great pressures in life.
  - f. Being prayerful.