

# RUTH STUDY

## CHAPTER 3:1-5

TAPE NUMBER SM-285 - JANUARY 31, 1998

---

### THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

## *The Romance of Redemption*

The Gospel According to Ruth

### THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

## *“Preparing to Meet the Lord”*

---

### The ‘Sentence Summation’ of the Text

There is coming a day when all that we know will come to an end. Our lives will come to end, the nations will cease to exist, and in fact the world as we know it will come to an end...

#### **1 Corinthians 15:24**

Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

*Jesus obviously went out of his way  
to communicate to us that He was going to return for us.*

### Jesus’ Exciting Words

#### **John 14:1-3**

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

### Paul’s Encouragement to Us

#### **1 Thessalonians 4:15-18**

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.

## Paul Exhortation to Titus

**Titus 2:13**

looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

*...and He gave Instructions  
of what we are to do in the meantime  
and that is preparing ourselves to meet Him!*  
We Have some Exciting Days Ahead

**Revelation 19:7-9**

((This part hasn't happened yet))

"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." <sup>8</sup> And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

Redemption,  
The Buying Back Of That Which Was Lost

**Scruffy, the pound puppy  
Awaiting the redemption**

The buying back, out of prison and the pound

**Our Store of Ruth & Boaz**

**A cuddly and heart-warming love story,  
and I don't want it to sound legal or cold.**

**But there is a lot going on here**

- Naomi's few elderly years are a concern
  - Ruth's young future is before her
- Boaz' has fallen in love and given his heart to Ruth

Ever since Boaz has come into Ruth's life, Naomi has been a different person and behind it all is the providential hand of God at work

## The Chapter Division is important to Us

Because it reveals the factors that are involved in any transaction...

- A.) Offering by Naomi, 3:1-5
- B.) Executed by Ruth, 3:6-9
- C.) Agreed to by Boaz, 3:10-18

So now,  
Approximately 6 to 8 weeks have elapsed since  
chapter 2:32

*Daily Now Ruth and Boaz  
have been conversing and fellowshiping together*

### *"Preparing to Meet the Lord"*

1.) By Looking for the Hand of God	vv. 1-2a
------------------------------------	----------

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? <sup>2</sup> "Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.

Looking for the Hand of God

1a.) The Plan of God is at Work	vv. 1a
---------------------------------	--------

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?"

\* **Security** GRK 4494 manowach (maw-no'-akh);  
from 5117; a quiet home of peace and joy

Naomi Wanted the Very Best for Ruth

§

She Intercedes for Her & Takes Action

In That Culture,

Death didn't separate the family as it does in our culture so often

Naomi was to seek out a husband for Ruth

\* **what a blessed and full life**

Verse 2a

"Now Boaz, whose young women you were with,  
is he not **our relative**?"

**Our relative**

*There is A lot of Joy and Excitement  
Forming Here*

**Deuteronomy 25:5-10**

"If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. <sup>6</sup> "And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel. <sup>7</sup> "But if the man does not want to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate to the elders, and say, 'My husband's brother refuses to raise up a name to his brother in Israel; he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother.' <sup>8</sup> "Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him; and if he stands firm and says, 'I do not want to take her,' <sup>9</sup> "then his brother's wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and answer and say, 'So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother's house.' <sup>10</sup> "And his name shall be called in Israel, 'The house of him who had his sandal removed.'

Naomi had Hopes for Ruth  
and Boaz was in Love with her

But Ruth had to ~Decide~ to Receive Boaz as Her Near-Kinsmen

Anyone could have become her husband...

But only Boaz would have the power to redeem her

We can be married to the world and its things...

Only Jesus can redeem Us

But Ruth Had to Say

..... **I Do** .....

*“Preparing to Meet the Lord”*

2.) We Need to Be Where God wants Us to Be
--

vv. 2b
--------

2a.) Being Led By the Spirit
------------------------------

vv. 2b
--------

In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.

This is a Good thing on Naomi's part

# HARVEST TIME

It was a great time of feasting and praise  
from mid-afternoon till the wind stopped blowing

Geographically:

The hills surrounding Bethlehem. You ascend to Bethlehem, but the fields and town are laying in a shallow valley.

# The Winnowing

was a time of separating the wheat from the chaff.  
It was done on the hilltops because of the evening winds that blew

When the Wind Stopped  
the separating of the wheat was over!!!

## The threshing floor

Remember Peter's Trial to Come

**Luke 22:31**

And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.

## The Wind, The Spirit & Trials

Jesus Said

**John 3:7-8**

"Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'<sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

## Trials can get Windy, even Stormy

**Matthew 7:24-25**

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:<sup>25</sup> and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

**Matthew 3:12**

"His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

## *"Preparing to Meet the Lord"*

3.) By Preparing the Heart and Mind

v. 3

"Therefore **wash** yourself and **anoint** yourself, **put on** your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.

# The Christian is to be Prepared at all times

## Preparing the Heart and Mind

3a.) By Removing the Dust of the World

v. 3a

Therefore wash yourself

## *Washing & The Hebrew Culture*

### The Rite of Baptism

(Both in Old & New Testament Times)

#### **Acts 22:16**

Paul Speaking 'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

## *An Outward, Symbolic Representation - of the Internal, actual Commitment*

#### **Ephesians 5:26-27**

that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup> that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

#### **Titus 3:3-6**

For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. <sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, <sup>5</sup> not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

## The Ministry of Washing (Mary's example)

#### **Luke 7:37-38**

And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, <sup>38</sup> and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears,

## Jesus' Example & Peter's Pride

### John 13:3-9

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup> rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. <sup>5</sup> After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. <sup>6</sup> Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." <sup>8</sup> Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"

## Preparing the Heart and Mind

### 3b.) By Changing the Way We Think

v. 3b

and **anoint** yourself

\* **Anoint** heb 5480 cuwk (sook);  
a primitive root; properly, to smear or to cover with oil)

### To Perfume and Oil

#### Psalm 23:5b

...you anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.

Put On That  
Moab Madness  
sweetheart it's time to Rejoice



**THIS WORLD REALLY SMELLS**



## The World Around Us - Is Dying

Look at the world... It's Suffering, it's Hurting, it's Struggling,

### 1 John 2:16-17a

For all that is in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away, and the lust of it..

You may not think the world needs you,  
but it needs the message inside of you,

~~~~ The gospel ~~~~

Consider the value of what you are in Christ

*...and who you are in Christ*

**1 John 2:20**

But you have an **anointing** from the Holy One, (Spirit) and you know all things.

**2 Corinthians 2:15a**

For we are to God the **fragrance** of Christ

**Acts 1:5**

"for John truly **baptized** with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

## Yourself

There are things that we must do (because of) salvation

**Jude 1:20-21**

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

## There are things that you cannot do for me...

Preparing the Heart and Mind

3c.) Deciding to Leave the Past Behind

vv. 3c

and put on your best garment

Her Best Garment!!!

(a garment of praise)

# But she was a widow, dressed in mourning - black

Isaiah 61:3

**The ministry of Jesus... I have come to give:**

comfort to those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."

According to God...

we are either clothed in the garments of praise  
(His Righteousness) or  
we are naked and exposed

Revelation 3:16-18

"So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. <sup>17</sup> Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'-- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—<sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your

Verse 3

and **go down** to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.

*By Law, Ruth Had to Agree to This  
Ruth Held the Decision in Her Hand*

*"Preparing to Meet the Lord"*

4.) By Submitting to God's Plan

vv. 4

"Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do."

# A type of the Holy Spirit

In that she is preparing Ruth for the Meeting of Meetings

Submitting to God's plan

4a.) Encouraging Ruth to Step Out

vv. 4a

"Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down;

**Uncover his feet, and lie down**

**STEAL THE BLANKETS**

The act of agreement

Ruth is Saying,

1. I recognize you and your love for me
2. I rejoice over all that you have done for me
3. I receive you as my kinsmen-redeemer

Submitting to God's plan

Verse 4

and he will tell you what you should do."

**John 14:26**

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

## *“Preparing to Meet the Lord”*

*Are you ready?*

### An Exhortation to be Prepared

#### **Matthew 25:1-13**

"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> "Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. <sup>3</sup> "Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup> "but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> "But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. <sup>6</sup> "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' <sup>7</sup> "Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> "And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup> "But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' <sup>10</sup> "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' <sup>12</sup> "But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' <sup>13</sup> "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

## **Are You Possessing the Spirit (Does the Spirit possess You)**

*“Preparing to Meet the Lord”  
are you dressed for it?*

Turn to Matthew 22