

Faith: Trusting, Walking, Living

A Study in Ruth & Galatians

Ruth 3:10–18

Read Ruth 3:1–18.

1. Picking up from last week, Boaz wakes up in the middle of the night to find a woman lying at his feet! In the midst of a sexually charged and potentially compromising situation, how would you characterize the interaction between Boaz and Ruth?

Are you surprised? Why or why not?

2. “In every Israelite family, two issues were paramount: the survival of the family name [sons] and keeping the family land in family hands.”¹ How are these two issues problematic in Elimelech’s family?

3. *“The Mosaic Law ... carried provisions to save a dying family and to protect their ownership of their land.*

“The levirate law addressed the situation where a man died without an heir...requiring the man’s brother (or kinsman v. 2) to marry and impregnate his widow. The son born of the union would carry forward the line of the deceased and shelter his widow. This was a family obligation and the man who failed to fulfill this duty brought great shame and dishonor on himself.

“The kinsman-redeemer law addressed the situation where a family’s land was either sold or confiscated to pay a debt. In this case, his nearest relative (or kinsman redeemer v. 9) was called to step in and purchase the land to keep it within the family.”²

What impact would fulfilling either of these requirements have upon the man who fulfilled them and his heirs? (4:6)

4. Reread verses 10–13.
 - a. What do we learn about Boaz?
 - b. What do we learn about Ruth?

1 Carolyn Custis James, *The Gospel of Ruth: Loving God Enough to Break the Rules* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008), 149.

2 Ibid.

