

## The Worthy Man (again)

15. After a merry evening of food and drink (v7) how might Boaz have responded after finding a woman lying at his feet in the dark?

16. How does his character show in his treatment of Ruth?

17. How does his character also show itself in his treatment of his unnamed kinsman?

## Pray

In the situation Ruth and Boaz both seem to have acted with propriety. Pray that in a society today where we are surrounded by sexual immorality we would follow the call of God in holiness (1 Thess 4.7)

Give thanks for the saving work of Christ our Redeemer and pray that we would have a desire to live up to what He will make us - holy and without blemish.

Pray for those who are vulnerable and exploited. For laws that will protect them and for people's hearts to be changed so that they will not seek to exploit others, but to help them.

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## Real Lives

### Week 4 - Ruth part 4



*Ruth chapters 3 & 4 are a good read but also contain some things that may seem strange to us in the light of the New Testament. and Christian teaching. Some of the issues were tackled in evening sermons in mid 2014 and these are available on the church website.*

*Don't forget to fill in your character sheet as you go along.*

## The Matchmaker

### Read Ruth chapter 3

1. What motivated Naomi to try and fix Ruth up with Boaz?

2. Boaz later says that Ruth could have found a younger man. Why does Naomi seem to think Boaz will make a good match for Ruth?

3. Naomi has a cunning plan and Ruth did just as she was told (v6). What are the key points of the plan and what was Naomi relying on for her scheming to work?

4. Was Naomi really wise in what she suggested? What were the risks for Ruth, and Boaz?

## The Worthy Widow

*In chapter 2 Boaz is called a “worthy man”, although some Bibles translate it differently, and the same word is used of Ruth in 3.11.*

5. How might Ruth have reacted to Naomi’s scheming and the risk she was taking? Why do you think she went along with the plan? What does this show you about her character?

6. At Naomi’s suggestion Ruth prepares herself for the encounter (v3). Given that it would be dark this has prompted some speculation as to why she did what she did. What do you think?

7. Ruth was asking Boaz to be her redeemer which echoes the relationship between believers and Christ. How does **Ephesians 5.25-27** express this? Remembering the preparations brides in particular like to make on their wedding day, what is different about the preparation of the bride of Christ (the Church) and why?

8. How did Ruth’s action (following Naomi’s instructions) show modesty, and how might she have acted more provocatively?

9. Despite her modest action what do her words show about what she and Naomi anticipated would be the outcome?

## The Go’el

**Read Genesis 12.1-3.**

10. It is usual to see the LORD promising three particular things to Abraham, what are they?

11. What would happen to the line and land of Elimelech if Naomi and Ruth had died without further children? (Keep this in mind because we will see how all three of the promises to Abraham come together in this short book.)

12. How does **Leviticus 25.23-24** show the relationship between the land God gave Israel and the role of the redeemer? (If you have time in preparation you might like to read either side of these verses)

13. What would be the benefit for Ruth if Boaz, or another redeemer, followed this principle?

14. Does this provision jar with us, and if so in what ways?

*Ruth says to Boaz “you are a redeemer” (Hebrew Go’el). Her situation does not fit exactly with Lev 25 yet they all seem to assume that the principles involved ought to be followed although neither Boaz nor the other relative seem to feel they are bound to do so. We will see next week the related duty laid on the Levir (brother-in-law) but also that Boaz actually took a different course and married Ruth.*