

EPISODE NO. 116

Ruth 3:1-18

Naomi Found a Husband for Ruth

1 Then Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law, said to Ruth, "My daughter, shouldn't I look for a home for you, so that it may go well for you? 2 And, isn't Boaz our relative? You were with his girls. Listen, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing-floor. 3 So, wash up, put on some perfume, wear your best clothes, and go down to the threshing-floor. However, do not reveal yourself to the man Boaz until he has finished eating and drinking. 4 And when he lies down, you must take note of the place where he lies down. Then you must go in, uncover his feet, and lay down, too. He will tell you what to do."

5 And Ruth said to her, "I will do everything you say."

6 So, she went down to the threshing-floor and did everything exactly as her mother-in-law had told her. 7 And, when Boaz had finished eating and drinking, and he was in a good mood, he went to lie down at the far end of the pile of grain. Then Ruth came softly and uncovered his feet, and she laid down. 8 At midnight, the man was startled and turned over. Look, there was a WOMAN lying at his feet!

9 And Boaz asked, "Who are you?"

And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant girl. So, spread your cloak of protection over me, because you are a close relative."

10 Then Boaz said, "May the Always-Present One bless you, my daughter. You have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning. You did not go after young men, whether rich or poor. 11 And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you whatever you ask. All of my fellow townspeople know that you are a noble woman. 12 Now it is true that I am a close relative. However, there IS a relative who is closer than I am. 13 Stay here tonight. In the morning, if he will perform the duty of a relative for you, fine. Let him do that. However, if he is unwilling to do this for you, then I will do it — as surely as the Always-Present One lives. Lie down here until morning!"

14 So, Ruth laid down at his feet until morning. Then she got up very early, before anyone could recognize one another. Boaz had said, "Do not let it be known that a WOMAN came to the threshing-floor!" 15 He also said, "Bring the shawl that you have

on and hold it out.” So she held it out. Boaz measured out six units of barley and placed it upon her. Then she went into town.

16 Now when Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, “How did it go, my daughter?” Then Ruth told her everything that Boaz had done for her.

17 Ruth said, “Boaz gave me these six units of barley! He said, ‘Do not go away empty-handed to your mother-in-law.’ ”

18 Then Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter, until you learn how this thing develops. Boaz will not rest until he has settled this matter today!”