

Finding Rest
Ruth 3:1-18

A Plan
A Proposal
A Problem

A Plan

Ruth 3:1–2 *Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you? ² Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you were? See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.*

Rest (mā-nôah): home, formally, resting place, i.e., an abode as a place where one lives and finds rest.

Ruth 1:9 *The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!” Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.*

Fivefold Plan

Ruth 3:3–4 *Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴ But when he lies down, observe the place where he lies. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do.”*

Wash herself

Anoint herself

Put on her cloak

Approach Boaz correctly

Obey Boaz

Wash

Ruth 3:3 *Wash* therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor,

Exodus 29:4 *You shall bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of meeting and wash them with water.*

Psalms 51:2 *Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!*

1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

2 Corinthians 7:1 *Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.*

James 4:7–8 *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

Anoint

Ruth 3:3 *Wash therefore and **anoint yourself**, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor,*

Exodus 30:25 *And you shall make of these a sacred anointing oil blended as by the perfumer; it shall be a holy anointing oil.*

1 John 2:20 *But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.*

2 Corinthians 2:15 *For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing,*

Put on a cloak

Ruth 3:3 *Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and **put on your cloak** and go down to the threshing floor,*

Exodus 22:26–27 *If ever you take your neighbor's cloak in pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down, ²⁷ for that is his only covering, and it is his cloak for his body; in what else shall he sleep? And if he cries to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate.*

Salvation is pictured as a change of clothes (Luke 15:22; Isa. 61:10), and Christian living means taking off the “graveclothes” of the old life and putting on the “grace clothes” of the new life (Col. 3:1–17; see John 11:44).

Wiersbe, W. W. (1993). *Be Committed* (p. 42). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

Isaiah 61:10 *I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

Approaching correctly

Ruth 3:3-4 *but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴But when he lies down, observe the place where he lies. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do.*”

Regulative principle

The regulative principle is simply the assertion that we must worship God in the way that he has revealed himself and the way he has commanded us to worship Him in His word. We need to worship God according to Scripture. Our worship needs to be directed by Scripture. The form and the content of our worship needs to be in accord with the Bible, informed by the Bible, and warranted by the Bible. It needs to be founded in the Scriptures. Ligon Duncan

Obey Boaz

Ruth 3:4...*and he will tell you what to do.*

James 1:22–25 *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*

Proposal

Ruth 3:5–7 *And she replied, “All that you say I will do.” ⁶So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her. ⁷And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down.*

Ruth 3:8–9 *At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! ⁹ He said, “Who are you?” And she answered, “I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer.”*

Ezekiel 16:8 *“When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord GOD, and you became mine.*

A problem

Ruth 3:10–11 *And he said, “May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. ¹¹ And now, my daughter, **do not fear**. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman.*

Ruth 3:12–13 *And now it is true that I am a redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I. ¹³ Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, as the LORD lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning.”*

Ruth 3:14–17 *So she lay at his feet until the morning, but arose before one could recognize another. And he said, “Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor.” ¹⁵ And he said, “Bring the garment you are wearing and hold it out.” So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley and put it on her. Then she went into the city. ¹⁶ And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, “How did you fare, my daughter?” Then she told her all that the man had done for her, ¹⁷ saying, “These six measures of barley he gave to me, for he said to me, ‘You must not go back empty-handed to your mother-in-law.’ ”*

Ruth 3:18 *She replied, “Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest but will settle the matter today.”*

Psalms 37:5 *Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.*

Proverbs 3:5–7 *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. ⁷ Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.*