

2:20

Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “Blessed *be* he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!” Naomi and Elimelech! And Naomi said to her, “This man *is* a relation of ours, one of our close relatives.” Leviticus 25:23-25 shows us while this matters. The **close relative** had the right to keep the property of a family with the family. Deuteronomy 25:5-10 speaks of what will happen if a man will not perform the duty of the **close relative**. The implication is that we may have a person now that is expected to raise of a child in the name of Elimelech.

2:21

Ruth the Moabitess said, “He also said to me, ‘You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.’ ”

2:22-23

And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, “*It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, and that people do not meet you in any other field.*” ²³ So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; maybe as many as 6 or 7 weeks—probably into early June. and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

3 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, ^ashall I not seek ^bsecurity ¹for you, that it may be well with you? ²Now Boaz, ^cwhose young women you were with, *is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.* 2 Samuel 24, Psalm 1, and Matthew 3 all mention this idea of chaff being blown free of the heavier wheat. In other words, the **threshing floor** was placed in a location where wind was easily flowing—such as in 2 Samuel 24 which becomes the location of the temple. ³Therefore wash yourself and ^danoint yourself, put on your *best garment* as opposed to the “garments of widowhood” (Genesis 38). Perhaps this will explain why Boaz has a different reaction to her presence (along with his partial inebriation).

and go down to the threshing floor; *but* do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴Then 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.”

⁵ And she said to her, “All that you say to me I will do.”

⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her. ⁷ And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and ^ehis heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down. Boaz is wearing here what is probably discussed in Exodus 22:25-27 as the outer garment used in adverse weather.

^a 1 Cor. 7:36; 1 Tim. 5:8

^b Ruth 1:9

¹ Lit. *rest*

^c Ruth 2:3, 8

^d 2 Sam. 14:2

^e Judg. 19:6, 9, 22; 2 Sam. 13:28; Esth. 1:10

⁸ Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet. ⁹ And he said, “Who *are* you?”

So she answered, “I *am* Ruth, your maidservant. After Jacob realized he had spent an entire night with the wrong woman (Genesis 29), we see strange mistakes can be made in the dark—like not recognizing somebody you surely know. ^fTake ²your maidservant under your wing, or “skirt” (as in 2:12). She is asking to be protected as his servant as she has sought for protection as a servant of God (2:12). for you are ^ga ³close relative.”

¹⁰ Then he said, ^h“Blessed *are* you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than ⁱat the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich. Boaz, then, was considerably older than Ruth, and perhaps this is why he has not pursued her. ¹¹ And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you *are* ^ja virtuous woman. So much for the modern notions that Ruth was acting sexually with her act; rather, she was seeking the shelter of a man who pictures the “LORD” (verse 10). ¹² Now it is true that I *am* a ^kclose relative; however, ^lthere is a relative closer than I. ¹³ Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be *that* if he will ^mperform the duty of a close relative for you—good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, ⁿas the LORD lives! Lie down until morning.”

¹⁴ So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, ^o“Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor.” It was pretty common to have harlots “finding” workers at this harvest and “service” them behind these piles of barley, and it seems that Boaz wishes to protect her reputation. ¹⁵ Also he said, “Bring the ⁴shawl that *is* on you and hold it.” And when she held it, he measured six *ephahs* of barley, and laid *it* on her. Then ⁵she went into the city.

^f Ezek. 16:8

² Or *Spread the corner of your garment over your maidservant*

^g Ruth 2:20; 3:12

³ redeemer, Heb. *goel*

^h Ruth 2:20

ⁱ Ruth 1:8

^j Prov. 12:4; 31:10–31

^k Ruth 3:9

^l Ruth 4:1

^m Deut. 25:5–10; Ruth 4:5, 10; Matt. 22:24

ⁿ Judg. 8:19; Jer. 4:2; 12:16

^o [Rom. 12:17; 14:16; 1 Cor. 10:32; 2 Cor. 8:21; 1 Thess. 5:22]

⁴ cloak

⁵ Many Heb. mss., Syr., Vg. *she*; MT, LXX, Tg. *he*