

**Theme:** When we trust in God as our provider we are free to care for others more than for ourselves. We reap God’s blessing when we give, more than when we take.

**Introduction:** Old Story is told of a young man walking with a respected professor. This chapter will show us people who are more concerned about showing kindness, than finding it. People who are more intent on giving than receiving.

**Background:**

ACT 1 (Chapter 1) All is lost.

ACT 2 (Chapter 2) The hand of the Lord becomes evident in their lives.

**ACT 3, Scene 1 3:1-5**

**I. Naomi’s Concern**

A. A dramatic change in Naomi

1. Was *bitter* – Now is *caring*
2. Returning faithfulness of Ruth

B. Providing for Ruth?

1. She needs a husband! Find Rest! (“rest” in 1:9 vs. “rest” in 3:1)
2. “That it may go well for her”. *Concerned for welfare of her daughter-in-law – not for herself!*
3. The problem? Boaz has been silent.

C. A Plan Presented

1. A strange custom
2. Do whatever he says.

**ACT 3, Scene 2 3:6-9**

**II. Ruth’s Confidence (Chutzpa!)**

A. Following the plan

1. The action
2. Risk is real.
  - Moral concern - not physical. Ruin her reputation?
  - How will he respond?

B. The Encounter

- Boaz “gets cold feet”
- “Who are you?” “Your handmaid”

C. A Change of plans

1. Ruth’s modest proposal - **“Marry Me”**
  - A play on words.
2. Answer your own prayer! Boaz gets the picture immediately!
3. A kinsman-redeemer

## ACT 3, Scene 3 3:10-15

### III. Boaz's Commitment

- A. A blessing for Ruth (3:10; 2:20)
- B. A greater "kindness"
  - 1. 1<sup>st</sup> kindness? Leaving family, land, gods – to follow Naomi and her God.
  - 2. 2<sup>nd</sup> kindness
    - a. Not seeking young man (in his prime), rich man (status), or poor (love doesn't recognize such things)?? **No.**
    - b. Seeking "good" for Naomi!
      - Boaz's responsibility is to Naomi, not Ruth.
- C. A kinsman redeemer
  - a. Responsibilities - Leviticus 25:25-30; Leviticus 27:47-55; Numbers 35:19-27; Numbers 5:8; Jeremiah 50:34
  - b. Levirate Marriage - Deut.25:5-10
- D. The tables turn
  - Boaz - "I will do all that you ask"
  - You are a "worthy woman"
  - Boaz accepts her modest proposal. But...**
- E. There is an "impediment"
  - 1. There is one ahead of me
  - 2. His assurance to Ruth

## ACT 3, Scene 4 3:16-18

### IV. Naomi's Confidence

- A. Anticipation
- B. Confirmation of his concern for Naomi
- C. Have patience!?

### V. Our Conclusions?

- 1. When Christ is our rest – we do not fear for ourselves. We can show love, kindness, faithfulness to others with a clean heart – and with joy.
- 2. You can't steer a stationary ship/life! He rewards action taken in faith.
- 3. As those who experience God's loving-kindness (*hesed*) in our lives – so we are to be those who show His kindness to others.