

Study of Ruth: Integrity and Redemption

Scripture Focus: Ruth 3:1-18

Integrity has been defined as the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. Think of people you have known who you would conclude had exemplary personal integrity. What characterized their behavior? It seems Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz were people of integrity. How did they reveal their integrity as shown in this biblical story?

During the weeks of the barley and wheat harvests, Naomi had time to consider how to continue to protect Ruth and “seek some security” for her. (3:1) It was customary for Hebrew parents to arrange marriages for their children. Naomi knew Boaz was indeed one who could be a kinsman-redeemer for Ruth and in addition, was a man who had acted generously and with integrity toward them. Naomi wasn’t sending Ruth on a careless errand. Her plan showed thoughtfulness and carefulness. And Ruth trusted Naomi without reservation. (See Ruth 3:1-5)

- Notice Ruth’s behavior in going to Boaz on the threshing floor and her interaction with him. What stands out to you? (See 3:6-9.) What in particular is Ruth asking Boaz to do in verse 9?
- As Ruth reveals herself to him, Boaz now has a decision to make concerning next steps, both for the immediate situation and the future. (See 3:10-13.) What did he do as a person of integrity whose commitment to God was guiding his actions? What might he have done had that not been the case?
- In the morning, Ruth prepares to leave Boaz and return home to Naomi. But before she goes, Boaz once again demonstrates his integrity and generosity. What does he do? (See 3:14-15.)

“Ruth had put herself under the wings of the God of Israel (2:12), and now she asked to be put under the wings of Boaz. She used a poetic image that had its source in the blessings Boaz had given her.” (J.F. Walvoord)