



Daily Devotionals

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RUTH 3:7-9 A BOLD HUMILITY

Written by Rev. Dr. Charles D. (Chuck) Alley, Ph.D., Rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Richmond, Va.

⁷ When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. ⁸ In the middle of the night something startled the man, and he turned and discovered a woman lying at his feet.

⁹ "Who are you?" he asked. "I am your servant Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer."

All the assurance of success would not have been enough to protect a young woman from the dangers involved in Naomi's plan. Creeping around a harvest feast alone in the middle of the night is an obviously threatening situation physically. Added to that is the understanding that the owner of the grain being threshed slept at the threshing floor in order to protect his harvest from thieves who might be sneaking around. Ruth also faced the possibility of being accused of immorality, being taken advantage of by the men or even being rejected by Boaz. So her approach to Boaz was certainly bold.

But all the same, Ruth carried out the plan. Her motivation appeared to be a humble submission to her role in honoring her dead husband and father-in-law, providing for Naomi and faithfully depending upon the provision of her Hebrew God. Her pure motive and her humility were demonstrated by the fact that she laid down at the feet of Boaz, the place of humble supplication and answered Boaz's shocked inquiry with, "*I am your servant Ruth.*" Then in total submission and absolute vulnerability she requests that Boaz redeem her through marriage.

As part of the covenant community of God, we have been promised a kinsman-redeemer in his Son, Jesus Christ. Our barren lives can be made fruitful and our sin-caused alienation can be reconciled by the loving acceptance of our Lord. We are instructed to boldly approach our Redeemer and have been assured that we will not be rejected. The gateway to our reconciliation with God is the cross of Calvary where Jesus has done for us what we do not deserve. All we can do is to come and lie at the foot of the cross and ask Jesus to cover us with the edge of his garment of righteousness. By doing so we submit ourselves to Jesus and offer ourselves as his bride.

I come to you, my Redeemer and my Lord, offering all that I am and all that I have to you. Thank you for your promise of a new relationship with the Father

*and the encouragement of your Holy Spirit to come to you in bold humility.
Lord, by depending upon you I am assured that I will be provided for eternally.
Amen.*

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