

THE QUEST FOR REDEMPTION

INTRODUCTION

“The squeaky wheel gets the grease” (cf. Matt 7:7–8)

In **Ruth 3:1–18**, we will see 3 scenes in Naomi’s quest for redemption that show us how the faith of God’s children respond to God’s provision.

1. The Plan of Redemption (1–5)
2. The Proposal of Redemption (6–9)
3. The Promise of Redemption (10–18)

1) THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION (1–5)

“security” (v. 1)

Naomi takes the initiative to be direct Ruth to obtain the answer to her own prayer
(see Ruth 1:9)

Pray and flirt (discretely) (v. 3)

“uncover his feet” (v. 4; see v. 10)

Just an obscure scheme to set up a marriage?

An active faith acting on God’s word
Human responsibility aligned with God’s sovereignty
Love acting for the sake of others

2) THE PROPOSAL OF REDEMPTION (6–9)

“behold, a woman” (v. 8)

“spread your covering over your maid” (v. 9)

Ezek 16:8
Deut 22:30
Ruth 2:12

Ruth's faith is motivated to obey on the basis of God's word that informed Naomi's faith.

3) THE PROMISE OF REDEMPTION (10–18)

Ruth was not after a marriage on the basis of physical attraction, but as an expression of love and service to Naomi.

“woman of excellence” (v. 11)

Ruth 2:1
Prov 31:10

“a relative closer than I” (v. 12)

“as the LORD lives” (v. 13)

“How did it go, my daughter?” (v. 16) = “Who are you, my daughter?”

“Are you Boaz's wife?”
“Are you still a Moabitess widow?”

Boaz's character

Disposition to take responsibility on the basis of God's word
Demonstration of love that seeks the interests of others

CONCLUSION

When we meditate on this story, we should marvel at the godly character, the obedience, and the faith of the characters. But, ultimately, we should be led to marvel at the wonderful provision of God for our salvation in Jesus Christ. May the story of Ruth guide each of us to the feet of Christ.