

# BEHOLD HE WINNOWETH BARLEY

## TONIGHT

### RUTH 3

Text: Ruth 3:2

Introduction:

Review the story thus far.

- Elimelech leads his family to Moab because of a famine in the land.
- While in Moab Naomi's husband - Elimelech dies along with her two sons, widowing her and her two daughters in laws.
- Word is heard how that God had blessed His people once again back in Bethlehem - Judah so Naomi decides to return home.
- Ruth goes with Naomi. On their arrival the question is asked by the towns people "Is this Naomi" which meant pleasant. She instructs them not to call her Naomi any more but rather Mara, meaning bitter.

- Ruth decides to go and glean so that her and Naomi might have something to eat and the field that she goes to is the field of Boaz, the next of kin to Elimelech which by rights to redeem and marry Ruth.
- While there Boaz takes interest in Ruth and gives her an abundance of grain for her and Naomi.

It's interesting to see, ever since Boaz came into Ruth's life, Naomi has been a different person. Her concern is no longer for herself and her grief but for Ruth and her future.

It when we serve others that we ourselves receive the greatest joy and satisfaction.

When the two widows came to Bethlehem, their plan was for Ruth to take care of Naomi and exist the best they could. But now Naomi has a new plan, and is setting that plan into motion.

In that day it was the parents who arranged marriages; so Naomi was not out of place in what she did.

Keep in mind that the book of Ruth is much more than the record of the marriage of a rejected alien to a respected Jew.

It's also a picture of Christ's relationship to those who trust Him and belong to Him.

In the steps that Ruth takes recorded in this chapter, we see the steps God's people must take if they want to enter into a deeper relationship with the Lord.

Like Ruth, we should not be satisfied merely living on leftovers and handouts.

Ruth 2:2

And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.

Ruth 2:14

And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left.

Ruth 2:16

And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her not.

We must want Him alone; for when we have Him, we also have all that He owns. It's not the gifts that we seek, but the Giver.

Notice with me as we see Ruth prepare for this special meeting with her Kinsman - Boaz.

## **1. HER CLEANSING**

Ruth 3:3

Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking.

A. Bathing often proceeded a special event.

Genesis 35:1-3

And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother. [2] Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments: [3] And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.

B. In order for us to develop a deeper relationship with the Lord we must:

1. Cleanse ourselves.

Read 2 Cor. 7:1 going back to 2 Cor 6 to see the promises spoke of in 2 Cor 7:1

- Whenever we sin we should pray as the Psalmist prayed.

Psalm 51:1-12

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. [2] Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. [3] For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. [4] Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. [5] Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. [6] Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. [7] Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. [8] Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. [9] Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. [10] Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. [11] Cast me not

away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. [12] Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Sometimes God says: “put away, cease to do evil”

Isaiah 1:10-18

Hear the word of the Lord, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah. [11] To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the Lord: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats. [12] When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? [13] Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. [14] Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. [15] And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

[16] Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; [17] Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. [18] Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as

white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

- Only we can put out of our lives those things that defile us.
- It may be books or magazines.

### Acts 19:18-20

And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. [19] Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. [20] So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

- It may be wrong music, certain television programs or videos.
- We must separate from anything that defiles us and grieves the Lord!

Note:

In the Old Testament priests couldn't come into God's presence defiled and those who did were in danger of death.

### Exodus 30:17-21

And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, [18] Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein. [19] For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat: [20] When they go into the tabernacle of the congregation, they shall wash with water, that they die not; or when they come near to the altar to minister, to burn offering made by fire unto the Lord: [21] So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations.

The Jewish people were conscious of the need for holiness as they came to worship God.

### Psalms 15:1-5

Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? [2] He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. [3] He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. [4] In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. [5] He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

## Psalm 24:1-6

The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. [2] For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. [3] Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? [4] He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. [5] He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. [6] This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah.

- Today Christians attempt to worship God without cleansing themselves of sin. Is there any wonder that our worship is often an empty routine and that the power of God is not in our meetings?

## 2. HER COVERING

### Ruth 3:3

Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking.

Eastern people used fragrant oils to protect and heal their bodies, to make themselves pleasant to others.

Oil also speaks of the presence and working of the Holy Spirit in our lives. When we trust Christ as our Savior the Holy Spirit come to live in us.

1 John 2:27

But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

We should be a sweet fragrance unto God.

2 Cor. 2:15

For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

3. Her Clothing

Ruth 3:3

Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking.

She was to take off the garments of a sorrowing widow and dress for a wedding.

In scripture garments carried a spiritual meaning.

- After Adam and Eve sinned in the garden they tried to cover themselves, but only God could forgive them and cover them acceptably, and He shed blood to do it.
- The Jewish priest wore special garments that no one else was allowed to wear.

We can't come into God's presence in our own righteousness, for our righteousness is filthy rags, we can only come in the righteousness of Christ.

2 Cor. 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

## **4. HER COMMITMENT**

Ruth 3:5

And she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do.

She was not a hearer of the word only but a doer of the word.

A willingness to obey the Lord is the secret of knowing what He wants us to do and being blessed when we do it.

John 7:17

If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.