

Ruth (Love Defined) - Part 5

Sunday, March 17, 2024
10:30 AM

Let's continue our study of the book of Ruth

Remember as we consider it through the Lense of... **LOVE DEFINED...**

We want to look for...

- The lack of true love in the world
- God's love for us
- Our love for God
- Our love for each other
- The characteristics of what love should look like

In chapter 1 we saw these definitions of LOVE...

- **Love Is a Choice**
- **Love Means Commitment**
- **Love Requires Sacrifice**

In Chapter 2 we defined LOVE in this way

- **Love means that God has a PLAN**
- **Love begins with KINDNESS**
- **Love PROVIDES**
- **Love is HARD WORK and WORKS HARD**
- **Love should be the BY-PRODUCT of a real relationship with God**
- **Love always PROTECTS**
- **Love treats others like FAMILY**
- **Love is REWARDED by God**

Ruth 3

3 One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for. 2 Now Boaz, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. 3 Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. 4 When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do."

5 “I will do whatever you say,” Ruth answered. 6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do.

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; he turned—and there was 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 guardian-redeemer of our family.”

10 “The Lord bless you, my daughter,” he replied. “This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. 11 And now, my daughter, don’t be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character. 12 Although it is true that I am a guardian-redeemer of our family, there is another who is more closely related than I. 13 Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to do his duty as your guardian-redeemer, good; let him redeem you. But if he is not willing, as surely as the Lord lives I will do it. Lie here until morning.”

14 So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, “No one must know that a woman came to the threshing floor.”

15 He also said, “Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out.” When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and placed the bundle on her. Then he went back to town.

16 When Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, “How did it go, my daughter?” Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her 17 and added, “He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, ‘Don’t go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’”

18 Then Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.”

*Before we begin today, I want to remind us that though many of these examples of love are easy to see within the marital relationship, their principles also apply and should be understood in terms of God's love for us, Our love of God, Our Love of our brothers and sisters in Christ, and our love of others (including our enemies).

In Chapter 3 we see that Love can be defined as...

- Love provides SECURITY

3 One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, I must find a home (*rest*) for you, where you will be well provided for.

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) guardian-redeemer of our family."

15 He also said, "Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out." When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and placed the bundle on her. Then he went back to town.

*You will notice that some of these concepts are tied in to definitions we have already explored

(Protection & Provision in Chapter 2)

Here we focus on Love being defined as security

Naomi loved Ruth and now she needed the security of being provided for (*rest*)

Interestingly enough, several years ago I was reading some material about Marriage and listened to a message by a well know marriage counselor and speaker. He said that as he traveled around the country he would often perform and exercise in his audiences that would help illustrate the difference between how men and women define love. What he found was that women typically define love in terms of security. In other words, to feel loved they must feel secure (we'll get to the men's definition in a moment)

*Typically, or Generally does not mean that this is an across the board truth for every individual man and woman but in generalities it is true much of the time

But here we see this picture of love defined as security in several ways.

Verse 1 - rest (a home where you will be well provided for)

Verse 9 - spread your garment (pledge to take care of me, protect, comfort me, assure me that I am under your care and provision)

Verse 15 - Boaz demonstrates his willingness to provide security for Ruth (even before he knows whether or not the other closer relative will take up his responsibility) by providing for her physical security (Food for her and Naomi) something she had been fighting to do by gleaning in her fields but something that would not be sustainable long term on her own.

- Love shows RESPECT

2 Now Boaz, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. 3 Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. 4 When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do."

5 "I will do whatever you say," Ruth answered. 6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do.

10 "The Lord bless you, my daughter," he replied. "This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor.

14 So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, "No one must know that a woman came to the threshing floor."

18 Then Naomi said, "Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today."

Going back to our Marriage Speaker: He said that in his experiments in having men and women define love; women typically defined love in terms of security but men defined it in terms of respect

Respect -admire (someone or something) deeply, as a result of their abilities, qualities, or achievements:

Remember these are generalities but represent aspects of how we feel love
(Love languages)

*Each of us has different aspects of love the speak louder and more clearly to us than others

Naomi had respect for Boaz as a man of integrity and honor. Someone who would know what to do and someone who would do the right thing.

Ruth showed respect for Naomi in trusting her advice

Ruth showed respect for Boaz in coming to him (by his own admission she could have gone after younger men) and then listening to him, trusting that he would do what he said

*As an aside here, can I tell you wives that your husband just want to know that you believe in them

- **Love walks in PURITY**

This is an important definition of love that many in today's world have completely ignored. In fact, the majority of the world does just the opposite. Purity as a definition of love has been replaced by lust, sex outside of the bonds of marriage, and doing whatever feels right.

3 Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. 4 When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do."

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; he turned—and there was a woman lying at his feet!

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14 So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, “No one must know that a woman came to the threshing floor.”

Hebrews 13:1-5

13 Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. 2 Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. 3 Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. 5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

- Love is PATIENT

1 Corinthians 13:4

4 Love is patient,

Ruth had to be patient and wait for Boaz to settle the matter.

13 Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to do his duty as your guardian-redeemer, good; let him redeem you. But if he is not willing, as surely as the Lord lives I will do it. Lie here until morning.”

18 Then Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.”

So many are not patient, waiting for love and end up causing even more difficulties and entangling themselves into relationships that are not filled with love

On a practical level, true love has to exercise patience with those we love. Aren't you glad that God's love was patient with us?

These next two are tied in with a Kinsmen Redeemer and we will learn more about that next week. But for today, I want to focus on the fact that as a kinsmen redeemer, one had both privileges and responsibilities.

13 Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to do his duty as your guardian-redeemer, good; let him redeem you. But if he is not willing, as surely as the Lord lives I will do it. Lie here until morning.”

- Love is a PRIVILEGE

- Love comes with RESPONSIBILITIES.