

# Taking Risks in the Dark

Ruth 3:1-18

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There was high tension and ambiguity as Naomi, Ruth and Boaz all took huge risks.

*go where you want, for God's glory' – Kevin DeYoung.*

## A Risk Worth Taking

### **1) Why? | The Motivation**

Ruth had gleaned until the harvest was over and was now home (Ruth 2:23). Naomi's desire for Ruth was for rest (Ruth 3:1b, 1:9a). Despite their relatively stable life, Naomi knew that there was still no rest in Ruth's life ahead. The covenantal love that she had for Ruth had birthed a concern, and it triggered her risky venture. Covenantal relationship motivates us to take risks for each other. It shares in the risks for the sake of another. Let us be motivated by covenantal love to take risks for one another!

### **2) How? | The Plan**

Naomi knew that the best way for Ruth to find rest was to have a husband. She discerned an opportunity (v2a) and time (v2b) and planned specific steps for Ruth to find and engage Boaz (vv3-4). Naomi had lived in a time when people were extremely dependent on miraculous signs in making spiritual decisions. Despite that, Naomi's risky plan was in no way miraculous or spiritual. Naomi was free to use her God given discernment to execute a plan she had made out of love for Ruth. Like Naomi, we too are free to make decisions! Do not over-spiritualise things. Don't require more for ourselves than what God expects of us from His word. *The only chains God wants us to wear are the chains of righteousness—not the chains of hopeless subjectivism, not the shackles of risk-free living, not the fetters of horoscope decision making—just the chains befitting a bond servant of Christ Jesus. Die to self. Live for Christ. And then do what you want, and*

### **3) What? | The Execution**

Ruth responded to Naomi's covenantal love with covenantal loyalty (vv5-6). She agreed to Naomi's plan without any hesitation. Ruth valued elderly Naomi for her wisdom and experience. Honour the elderly among us by seeking out their wisdom and experience!

As Ruth executed the risky plan, an honest, intimate and sensitive conversation unfolded between her and Boaz. After identifying herself, Ruth humbly requested for Boaz to save her (v9b). Boaz immediately responded by blessing, praising, comforting and accepting her request (v11). In executing the plan, Ruth completely dies to herself. A plan worth executing, is a plan worth dying to ourselves for.

### **4) When? | The Wait**

While both Ruth and Boaz were fully invested in Naomi's plan, a problem had arisen – there was a redeemer closer than Boaz (v12). Naomi, Ruth and Boaz were all forced to wait for the outcome. While waiting can be unbearably excruciating, it is in the waiting that God's covenantal relationship with us is tested. At the end of the day, everything is in God's hand: in our motivation, what really matters is if God is similarly motivated; in our freedom, the ultimate freedom belongs to God; in our dying to ourselves, what really matters is whether God keeps our dreams alive. But what is our comfort in the waiting?

v18 – Naomi comforts Ruth by telling her that Boaz would not rest until the matter is settled. Boaz the redeemer would put aside his rest to secure rest for Ruth,

something she was looking for the entire chapter (v1b).

But there is another Redeemer who is closer than Boaz and the other redeemer; He has been showing His hesed love to Ruth and Naomi since the beginning; He has been working tirelessly to meet the depths of Ruth's needs. *He is Yahweh, the covenantal God of Ruth!*

A covenantal God never rests – this is our comfort in the waiting! He neither sleeps nor slumbers and will not rest until he has settled the matter of our rest. It is this covenantal God that gives us hope in our waiting, freedom to make decisions, courage to take risks and strength to die to ourselves. Jesus Himself is our rest (Matt. 11:28), so draw near to Him!