

Study Questions for Ruth Chapter 3



Ruth and Boaz by Nicolaes Berchem (1620-1623)

Please read *The Book of Ruth*, Chapter 3. Then, I would ask you to read *Ezekiel* Chapter 16:1-14. And finally, think about the following discussion questions. This particular lesson will start with an examination of parallels between these two passages in the Old Testament.

- 1) When you read the beginning of *Ruth* Chapter 3 and *Ezekiel* Chapter 16, what is happening in both of these cases? But where do the parallels cease? Did you note how different the final state of “the bride” is in these cases?
- 2) Naomi’s instructions to Ruth in Chapter 3 to “uncover Boaz’s feet and lie down,” (See *Ruth* 3:4) sound very strange to our modern ears. Actually, it would have piqued the interest of the original readers as well. Could there be some double-entendre at work here?
- 3) When Boaz awakes, Ruth’s request is that he spread “the corner of his garment across her.” (See *Ruth* 3:9) As a vulnerable young woman in a potentially compromising position, what is she really requesting?
- 4) In that same verse, how does Ruth address Boaz? What does that sound like to our “New Testament ears”?
- 5) In that same verse, how does she describe herself? Again, how does that sound to our “New Testament ear”? (Hint: Think about the beginning of *Luke’s Gospel*)
- 6) And then, how does Boaz describe Ruth in verse 11. Again, this is a very interesting title. Do you know the only other time it is used in the Old Testament? (Hint: Look in *Proverbs* Chapter 12 and 31)
- 7) Isn’t it interesting that at the end of Chapter 3, Boaz prepares a gift offering of grain for **Naomi** (rather than Ruth). What could this mean?
- 8) Finally, Ruth’s virtuous behavior is a direct contrast to infamous and sinful behavior by another inhabitant of Moab. Remember? (See *Gen.* 19:30-38) So, what is the author of *Ruth* saying here?