

God's At Work Even When We Don't See It: An Exposition

of Ruth and Esther #4

Strangers In The Night

Ruth 3:1-18

I. Naomi's Plan VS 1-5

- A.** To give Ruth security or rest
 - A husband
 - A home

- B.** The target - Boaz
 - A potential "redeemer"
 - Close relative
 - The idea from Leviticus
 1. To preserve the heritage
 2. Family name
 3. Prosperity
 4. Of one who had died and had no sons to inherit
 5. It preserves their name
 6. The closest relative has this responsibility and if he can't, passes it on down

- C.** The time – night
- D.** The place – the threshing floor
- E.** Preparation
- F.** Risk

II. I Love It When A Plan Comes Together! VS 6-18

- A.** Ruth follows the plan
- B.** Who are you?
- C.** Your wife – if you want me to be
- D.** I do
- E.** But...
- F.** Stay here 'til morning
- G.** Gift of grain
- H.** Report to Naomi
- I.** Be patient – the hook is set

III. Thoughts

- A.** The risk of commitment for an outsider
 - They know more than I do
 - I have to trust they know more about this culture than I do
 - I trust they would never ask me to do something that wasn't for my good.
 - This is how we trust God in obedience to His Word and will.

- B.** This is a picture of the Gospel
 - Jesus wants to be our redeemer
 - Willing to pay the price
 - So that we can have rest

- C.** This story is an illustration of integrity
 - Ruth to Naomi
 - Ruth to Boaz
 - Boaz to Ruth
 - Nothing is compromised
 - They both display an amazing sense of character
 - So in all we do maintain integrity and character

- D.** In the middle of this story we see God at work to accomplish His purposes even though no one else does.
 - Do you believe God is working behind what's seen in your life?