

**Godly Relationships. Boaz and Ruth. PART 1**

For our context, we are looking at the book of Ruth as a love story between Boaz and Ruth. Of course the wider purpose of the book is hugely important in the history of the nation of Israel. You really want to be focused on that view. However the scripture does throw, quite frequently, jewels of great value for daily living. In this book, we have just found one jewel on godly relationships. Let's take the journey together!

**#1 Main Lesson: The LORD shapes events.**

Ruth wakes up one morning thinking of going out to work. So she goes out, entering a field, she begins to glean behind the harvesters. As it turns out, she is working in a field belonging to Boaz. Chemistry begins its work and eventually Boaz marries Ruth.

Key Points:

1. God arranges or shapes normal life events for a particular purpose. Ruth woke up thinking about work and not a husband. Boaz has a normal day at the office. Yet it is these normal events that the LORD uses to bring together Boaz and Ruth.  
We need to trust that the LORD is in charge of events even when everything looks absolutely normal. To dress for the kill isn't a very good idea.
2. **'it turns out'**. This statement is important for our understanding. The LORD fixes these appointments.
3. The overseer said far too much about Ruth. By being in the field for long and only taking brief breaks, Ruth wrote her powerful CV. She didn't have to send it out herself. Others around her sent it on her behalf.
4. Boaz is a generous man. He goes out of the way in helping Ruth. It should be enough for him to simply allow Ruth to work in his field. But Boaz goes ahead and gives Ruth protection and provides for her needs – just in case she gets thirsty. Boaz has already ticked a lot of boxes in Ruth's mind as an ideal man for a husband. Normal life events and activities give a woman chance to assess the suitability of a man.
5. Ruth is humble and down to earth. She doesn't lift herself above herself. She heartily appreciates the kindness. She doesn't give Boaz the impression like she deserved the kindness.
6. There is a good testimony about Ruth in the community. Boaz is aware of it. Women with a good testimony are hard to come by!
7. A good man has a sense of duty. He knows what a lady wants without being asked. Boaz invites Ruth over for a meal. You can call it a date!
8. Through Naomi we learn something about Boaz. He is a kind man. Ruth should be more interested! Naomi has more. Boaz is available! This is important! It does a young woman no good if a very good man is already married. At this point dreams become sinful and must be cut immediately.
9. We, the members of the community can easily approve of this marriage. We know Boaz is a good man. We also know Ruth to be both kind and hardworking – a good woman with a good heart.

10. But what exactly is happening behind the scenes? What has brought us here? Check more below.

### **#2 Main Lesson: Marriage preparations – the processes before**

Where are we coming from?

1. Naomi refers to Boaz's 'kindness to the living and the dead'. That was his character! We strongly suspect Boaz had a good relationship with Elimelek and Naomi even before they temporarily relocated to Moab. He had built his reputation of kindness over a long period of time.
2. A good character isn't a jersey you put on when dating. It should be a character shaped by years of godly living.
3. Ruth decided to stick to her mother-in-law out of her kindness. After the loss of her husband and being advanced in years, Naomi was in need of care. Ruth provided the care. She made godly decisions that built her reputation as a kind and also morally upright woman. And as we learnt through the Overseer's testimony, she was also hardworking. This woman was diamond!
4. At this stage we are looking at diamond wrapped in the dirty clothes of a working woman. It tells us that there are certain things which are more important than fancy clothes and expensive facial makeups.
5. This love story may easily hide the most important and foundational processes – godliness and the God of godliness who was pulling strings in the background. Here we want to emphasize the role of both Boaz and Ruth as willing and obedient tools in God's hand. But we also know that men and women can be bad tools. Check below.

### **#3 Main Lesson: What the saint should avoid**

Dressing for the kill or dress to kill. When the kill discovers the gunshot was fake, it will quickly get up and run away. The end result is never good. Or when the killing mission is over, one normally must put on other normal clothes. You may never like the normal clothes

1. Avoid quick fix character fabrication in order to win someone. Instead invest in long-term character transformation based on godly values. Ruth and Boaz had invested in a godly character long before they met.
2. Avoid setting traps for girls or boys. Instead let normal life activities bring you in a situation for a blessing. A trap goes with a bait. A bait hides true colors and a bait itself isn't permanent. It expires the moment the victim is caught.
3. Avoid chronic ignorance. Boaz knew something about Ruth. He heard about her good behavior. Don't walk into a date without knowing anything about the candidate. You are asking to be cheated and managed. You are exposing your trust to abuse.
4. Don't underrate the poor girl or poor man in rags as your destiny may lie with them. The poor Ruth who survived on pickings left behind by harvesters was the appointed ancestor of King David, and eventually the man Jesus Christ. She carried the seed within her womb.