

## **Ruth and Boaz at the Threshing Floor**

Ruth 3

by Don Falkos

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One day Naomi said to Ruth, "It's time we found you a husband. Tonight Boaz will be working at the threshing floor. He will spend the night there to protect the grain. Now do as I tell you." Naomi gave a series of instructions, which Ruth followed to the letter.

She took a bath; put on perfume; and dressed in her finest clothes. Then she went to the threshing floor, being careful that no one saw her. She waited until Boaz was asleep and crept silently forward. Then, as a sign of submission, she uncovered his feet and lay down.

During the night Boaz woke up and was surprised to find a woman lying at his feet.

"Who are you?"

"I am Ruth. I have come seeking your protection as my closest relative."

"The Lord bless you! I will do what needs to be done, for you are a woman of noble character. But there is a man who is a closer relative than I. I will speak with him tomorrow. He has the legal right to claim you as his own. But if he is not willing, I will marry you myself. Now lie down here until morning."

They were up again before dawn. Boaz gave Ruth some barley saying, "You mustn't go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed." He sent her home while it was still dark so no one would know a woman had been at the threshing floor.

After Ruth told Naomi about her visit with Boaz, Naomi said, "Now we wait; but not for long. Boaz will certainly settle things before the end of the day."