

Ruth 1:1-2:3

What follows in the rest of the book is a love story, a love story between two people of great character, **Ruth** and **Boaz**. The two eventually get married and have a son named **Obed**. Obed later has a son named **Jesse**, and then Jesse has a son named **David**, the one through whom **the Christ** would come.



No question they grew to love and appreciate each other, but Boaz actually had a legal obligation to marry Ruth (4:10; see Duet. 25:5-10).

There were no brothers left to marry Ruth, so the obligation fell on the nearest relative. There was one nearer than Boaz, but he gave up his right.

There was also the matter of redeeming a piece of land (4:3-4).

A green-tinted illustration of a biblical scene, likely Boaz and Ruth. In the foreground, a man (Boaz) is kneeling in a field, working with a bundle of grain. Behind him, a woman (Ruth) stands, also working. In the background, several other figures are visible, including a man on a horse and a woman standing. The scene is set in a field with tall grass and a hazy background.

Qualities of a Good Husband

As Seen in Boaz

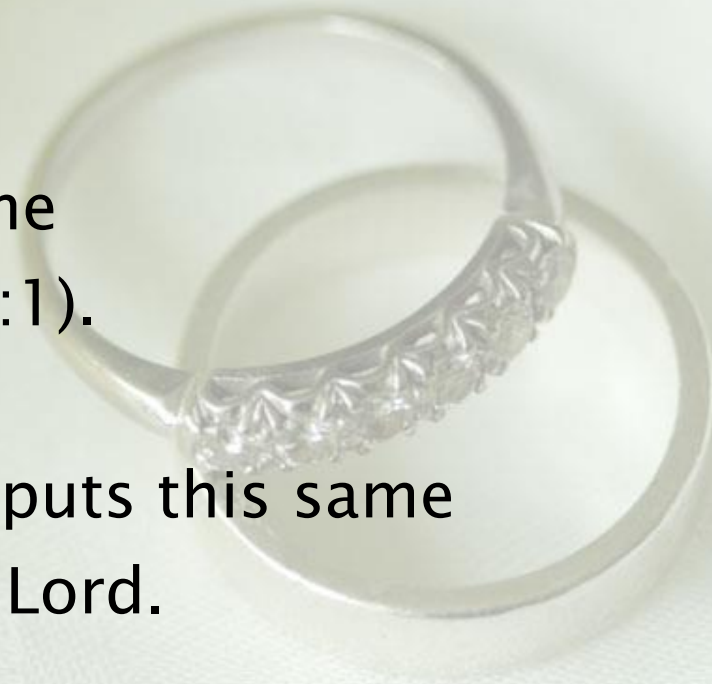
God-Fearing

- In the way he treated his workers.
 - 2:4.
- In the way he treated Ruth.
 - 2:5–12.
- In the way he treated Naomi.
 - 3:15–17.



Attended to his work

- Oversaw his workers and gave them instructions.
- Had done quite well, because he was “a man of great wealth” (2:1).
- Above all, look for a man who puts this same diligence into his work for the Lord.



Contrast Boaz with this man...

“I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; and there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles; its stone wall was broken down” (Prov. 24:30–31).

Took care of the needy

Went much further than what the law demanded
(Lev. 19:9–10; 23:22; Deut. 24:19).



Took care of the needy

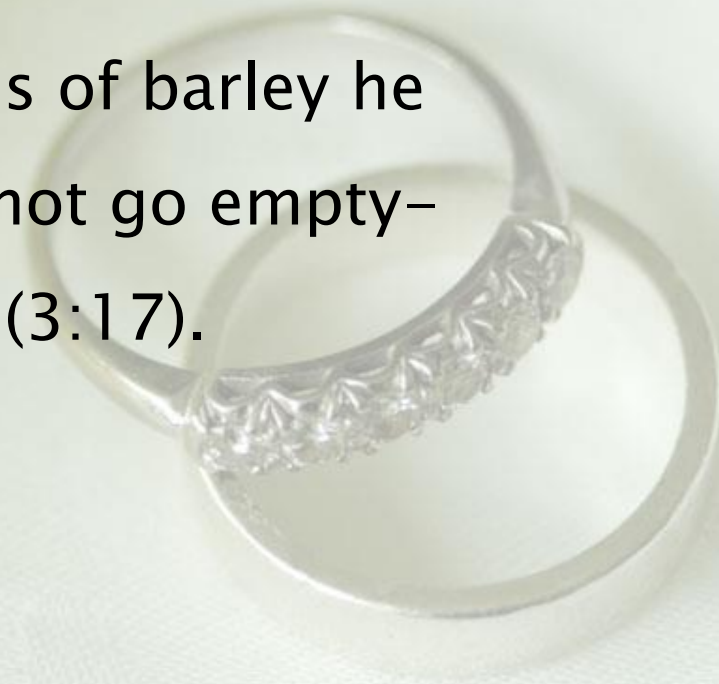
“You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women. Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn” (2:8–9).

Took care of the needy

- “Boaz said to her at mealtime, ‘Come here, and eat of the bread, and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar.’ So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched grain to her...” (2:14).
- “Boaz commanded his young men, saying, ‘Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. Also let grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her’” (2:15–16).

Took care of the needy

Ruth to Naomi: “These six ephahs of barley he gave me; for he said to me, ‘Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law’” (3:17).

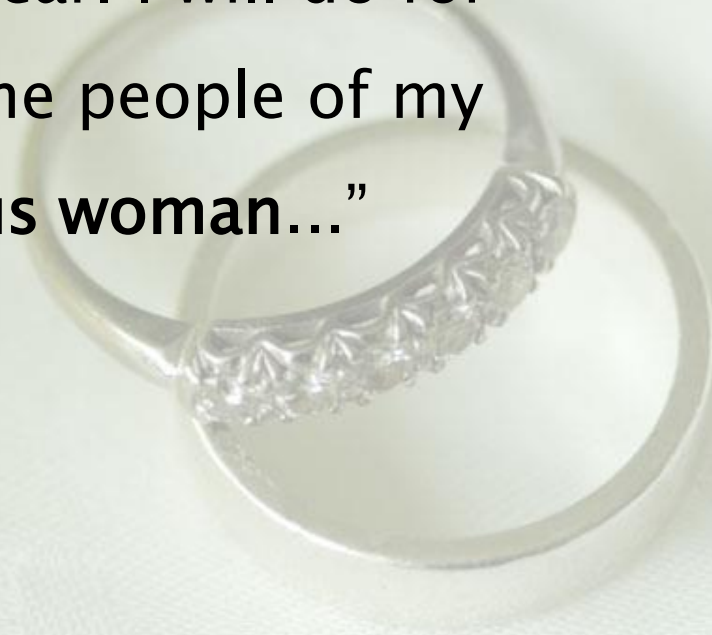


Appreciated Inner Beauty

“It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge” (2:11–12).

Appreciated Inner Beauty

“And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town **know that you are a virtuous woman...**”
(3:11).



Law Abiding

“Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you; good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the LORD lives!” (3:12–13).

Morally Pure

- Resisted temptation the night Ruth came to him.
- “So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, ‘Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor’” (3:14).

Boaz

- God-fearing.
- Good provider
- Compassionate, merciful, tenderhearted
- Appreciated inner beauty
- Law abiding
- Morally pure

