

**RUTH – 3 of 6**  
**Four Signs You Might Have A Keeper**  
October 6, 2024

**INTRODUCTION** Today we're going to continue our study through the Old Testament Book of Ruth. And to bring you up to speed, we're looking at a Moabite woman who left Moab for Bethlehem and got completely transformed and started worshiping the God of Israel.

And this week we're going to watch as Ruth, a widow, gets to know Boaz, who is a man of standing. His name means strong, he is a man of integrity. And we're going to watch them get to know each and see principles that will help you date wisely and will strengthen any marriages.

The principle for today is this: We all are shopping for the type of person we want. Instead of just looking for what you want to get from someone, look at what you want to give someone. Why is this so important?

Because **YOU DON'T JUST ATTRACT WHAT YOU WANT. YOU TEND TO ATTRACT WHAT YOU ARE.**

We're going to see that play out today in the Book of Ruth. And we're going to look at four signs that you might have a keeper.

The first thing that is this. Boaz is seeking character. I hope you see **THE FOUR C's**. They're ①seeking character, ②exploring connection, ③showing consideration, and ④receiving confirmation.

Boaz, a landowner, a lover of God, a good leader, very kind and he's generous to Ruth and she's a little bit surprised.

She's wondering, why are you being so kind to me?

Ruth 2, verse 10 says, *<sup>10</sup>At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him (meaning Boaz), "Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me --a foreigner?"*

You can almost see she might be a little bit insecure. There is no mention of her physical appearance. Boaz isn't focusing on what's on her outside, but way more important he's looking at what's on her inside.

And we're going to see the first thing he does is he's highlighting who she is as a person because he is...

## 1. SEEKING CHARACTER

Watch how he replies. <sup>11</sup>*Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—*

*how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before."*

He's saying, "I heard that you stopped worshiping the false God Chemosh and you left Moab, and you came and turned to the one true God and worshiped him.

And that you were loyal to your mother-in-law when that other girl, Orpah, wasn't and went back. And that you're not a victim, meaning you're not sitting back going, someone take care of me.

You're not looking for a handout, but you got up early, you showed up to the field, you started to work, you were gleaning in the field, and you didn't do what many women feel tempted to do when they have no other options.

They tend to sell their body in order to meet their needs. You didn't do that. You have godly character."

Are you a person of character? Are you a person with growing spiritual character? Are you a genuine disciple, a follower of Jesus? Are you a person of spiritual character? Why does this matter?

**YOU DON'T BUILD A LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS ON A FOUNDATION OF SIN.**

If you want a godly marriage in the future, it's really wise to seek God and live a godly life today. Are you a person of spiritual character? What does that mean?

Are you seeking to know God in His Word? Studying to His Word and letting it change you. Are you a person who doesn't just go to church, but you're actually serving in the church.

Do you treat people with honor and with integrity? Are you being conformed to the image of Christ?

In other words, do you look more like, behave more like, love more like Jesus, today than you did a few months ago. It doesn't mean that you're perfect.

But you're being perfected and changed by the presence of God who is active in your life daily, because you're seeking Him daily.

Are you a person of character? If you want a godly marriage, you want to have a godly character and you want to seek character. So, if you are dating, I would say pay really close attention.

What are you looking for? You're looking at their friends. What are their friends like? Are their friends, pursuing Jesus? Because you tend to be like those that you run with.

How do they treat their family? How does he talk about his mom? How do they treat people who serve them? You go to a restaurant, are they kind to the waiters and waitresses? Are they arrogant and entitled?

Does she have a work ethic? Does he take initiative?

In other words, if they are jerks to everyone else, if they have no quality friends, if they're critical of everyone else, and they're always a victim, and they push you sexually, and they distract you from God, these are not signs of Godly character.

If you're with someone and you're seeing things that are not pleasing to God, someone said this,

**WHEN A PERSON SHOWS YOU WHO THEY REALLY ARE, BELIEVE THEM.**

The way people are living is a reflection of what they believe. What we believe determines how we behave. Let's be a person of godly character and seek people with godly character.

So, if you're dating someone and they're not helping you get closer to Jesus, taking you away from Jesus, you might want to get out of Moab because God has something better in Bethlehem.

Boaz is a man of standing. He's a man of character. And he notices Ruth's character.

The next thing we see is that they're actually...

## 2. EXPLORING CONNECTION

Boaz actually invites her on a date in a sense. He says, **“Do you want to have lunch?”** And it's actually not even a private lunch. They're in a place where everybody's going to feel comfortable and they're actually going to get to know each other.

We see it in verse 14, *<sup>14</sup>At mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar.” When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over.*

What we do know about Ruth is she doesn't move too fast.

Notice what they're not doing on this first date. They're not making out.

They're getting to know each other. They're making a connection. And ladies, you want someone who put out some effort to pursue you.

So, what are you going to do? You're going to seek godly character; you're going to explore the connection along the way. And you're going to watch as they are...

## 3. SHOWING CONSIDERATION

Scripture says this in verse 15, *<sup>15</sup>As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, “Let her gather among the sheaves and don't reprimand her.*

*<sup>16</sup>Even pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don't rebuke her."*

Well, what do we know? We know that according to the Levitical law, they would have to leave behind whatever fell on the ground.

So, a widow, or an outcast, or someone who is poor could come along and glean it, and they could take it. And what he's doing is he's literally guarding her dignity. He's letting her work.

She came to work for food and he's letting her work. He's not going to give her a handout, but he's saying, hey guys, make it easy on her. Give her a little extra. He's going out of his way to bless her.

You know, according to the law, he had to give her what was there. But he's going beyond that. He didn't just do what the law requires. He is blessing her with so much more.

In verse 17, we read, *<sup>17</sup>So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah.* (E-fa)

What's an ephah? Let me tell you what an ephah is. In the Hebrew that means a lotta barley. That's what it means. And ephah was two weeks wages.

She worked for a day, but he was so generous, he put so much everywhere that after one day's work, she got an ephah, two weeks wages. He blessed her with more than she ever expected.

And that's why I would just say, when you're dating, don't settle. Don't settle for whoever's there. Find someone who puts out some effort. We don't want just someone who just meets our expectations. It's amazing when sometimes they would exceed them.

So, gentlemen, clean your car. Take your Big Mac wrapper out of her seat so she doesn't wear it for the rest of her night when she gets out.

Ladies, you want someone who might bring a thoughtful gift who takes you to a restaurant that doesn't have a drive through and sits down and asks you questions and gets to know you and walks you to the door.

He protects your heart, your purity, honors you and values you. Guys, if you want a Ruth, be a Boaz, be a giver, be generous. Put some effort into it.

Because you don't just attract what you want, you tend to attract what you are.

So, he's seeking character, they're looking for a connection. There's consideration. Then what I like is they actually are...

#### 4. RECEIVING CONFIRMATION

So, Ruth comes home to her mother-in-law, and she's got this ephah, this load of grain.

Verse 19 says, *<sup>19</sup>Her mother-in-law asked her, "Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!" ...*

Whoever that guy is, I like him. He's a good, honorable, godly man. And what we know about Naomi is she loved Ruth.

If you remember in chapter one, she prayed for God to send her a godly man, provide for her a husband. And so, this person who loves her, who she can trust, is actually confirming that this is potentially a good candidate.

That's why **IT'S ALWAYS A GOOD SIGN WHEN THOSE WHO LOVE YOU THE MOST, LIKE WHO YOU LIKE.**

When those that love you the most, who are really good people you trust say, **"Hey, I see potential in her. Hey, I see potential in him."** When the people you trust the most and love you the most, confirm it, that is really a good sign.

Please be careful when everyone else you really trust doesn't like someone. If your mama, dad, brother, best friend, life group, and your dog doesn't like him, you're not receiving the confirmation from the trusted people you want in your life. What do you see?

Naomi says, **"I like what I see."** There's some confirmation. So, Ruth shows up sweaty for her first date. She's not looking her best. Her hair is nothing, but a mess and she smells.

She'd been working all day in the sun, but he's not looking at just what's on the outside, but he sees her character and he likes what he sees, and he gets to know her, and he likes who he gets to know.

And they show consideration for each other. And there starts to be confirmation around. So, Ruth comes in and tells Naomi and Naomi says, **"Who is this guy that did this?"**

And she says, his name is Boaz. And Naomi said, **"Boaz, he's relative of ours!"**

And verse 20 says, *...he is one of our guardian-redeemers.* What is a guardian-redeemer?

Other versions say he's a kinsman-redeemer. This is one of the big themes in the book of Ruth. It's a metaphor. The guardian-redeemer is the relative whose role is to provide for someone who's had significant loss.

A family member loses a spouse, and the widow has no means to provide for herself. So, the guardian-redeemer protects her, provides for her, honors her, and takes care of her.

What's crazy is that legally Boaz is not obligated to be her guardian-redeemer. He's not nearly the closest relative at all. He's not a Elimelech's brother who would've been the one who was supposed to do it.

And Ruth's not even an Israelite, he doesn't owe her anything. And yet he chooses to give her everything. This is not just the law, this is grace.

And in the New Testament we have a guardian-redeemer, and his name is Jesus. He is the living Son of God who protects us, provides for us, paid the debt for the forgiveness of our sins, and meets all of our needs.

He is the one who works in all things, even in your broken relationship, your struggling marriage. He is the one who when you call on Him and seek Him, you will always find Him.

And He is so good in his providential power, he's working in all things to bring about good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. Do you love Him?

Are you, His disciple? He takes what's broken and he makes things new. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, doesn't matter what you've done. Doesn't matter what you're doing right now. Doesn't matter how dark or sinful your life is.

Anyone who is in Christ, is a new creation. The old is gone and the new comes. When you call on Jesus He can redeem, He can renew.

All things are possible with Him.

There is no sin too great for God's grace. There is no marriage too broken for God's healing. And there is no relationship beyond God's redemption when two people will seek one God.

No matter where you are I want you to hear and feel it. Jesus is our guardian-redeemer and He is here right now. He loves you, He's for you.

And He's working in all things to bring about good to those who love Him. Do you love Him? Because He loves you.

**PRAYER** Father, help us to know You and to put You first in all that we do. God, you specialize in healing broken relationships. And we pray God, for broken marriages, for those who are hurting, for those who've been betrayed, for those healing from painful divorces, for those who need Your presence.

Holy Spirit, do what only You can do. We pray for miracles and relationships. We pray for transformation stories. We pray God, that Your power would be made evident.

We pray that there would be testimonies that would come from people who turn to You. You are the God who makes all things new, God. We seek You.

Today, you recognize that you're not walking intimately with God. You're not a person of spiritual character. You're not living a life that truly reflects a love for God. He loves you. He sent Jesus for you.

Our only reasonable response is to give our life back to Him, to make Him first. What do we do? We just step away from Moab. We step away from the old sinful life and we step toward the God of Bethlehem.

God, I need You. I give my life to You today. I surrender to You. That's my prayer today. I'm leaving my old life. I want to trust in Jesus to save me. I surrender my life. I give my life to You.

Heavenly Father, thank You for forgiveness. Fill me with your Spirit so I can live for You and show Your love in all I do. Thank You for new life.

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

**THE END**