

Lesson 3

Ruth 3.1-4.12

This study will center on our response to the gospel of God; how faith in God's provision should stimulate us to certain kinds of action. Obviously, the list could be endless. We're going to focus only on several aspects of that attitude/behavior change as revealed in this text.

Read **Ruth 3.1-4.12**

1. Think back – look if you need to (**Ruth 1.11-15; 20-21**), what was Naomi's general attitude about her circumstances and God?
2. Now read **Ruth 3.1** again. What seems to have changed about Naomi? Does she seem to feel as desperate as she once felt?

We've been seeing the gospel unfold in visible fashion in this book. Given Naomi's previous attitude, what does an awakening (re-awakening, realization of) the gospel do? What kind of attitude change does God's gospel offer a believer?

3. In **Ruth 1.9**, Naomi prayed that God would provide husbands for her daughters-in-law. And until now, Naomi has been living with an understanding of God's sovereignty only (detached from His many other attributes). Now she's being awakened or reminded of His kindness.

Look at **Ruth 3.1**. What has her awakening to God's kindness prompted her to do? How has she changed? In **1.9** she prayed. What is she doing in **3.1**?

4. Look at **Philippians 1.6**. How does the gospel free us to strategize, make plans, take action to answer our own prayers?

5. Why do we most often not plan? Not try anything 'big?'

6. What kinds of risks are the characters in this story taking? Why do you think they're able to take them?

Naomi -

Boaz -