

The Book of Ruth – Part Eight

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Adapted from John Herbert's Notes; Presented by Bruce Cunningham

1). Ruth 3:1

Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you? 2 "Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. 3 "Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor;

a). We have noted many times that the Book of Ruth provides us with a type, a word picture, of the journey, work and preparation of the faithful Christian as they look to the day when they will stand before Christ at His Judgment Seat.

b). If any Christian is to experience the antitype of that presented in Ruth – acceptance by the Kinsman Redeemer, reward, a redeemed inheritance, a marriage relationship leading to regality and the finding of rest (which in our context points to the Day of Rest, the Seventh Day, the Age to Come, the Millennial Kingdom of Christ), then that Christian will have had to faithfully follow that which is taught in this small Book.

c). This is true for all aspects presented there, but particularly in relation of our study of the last three weeks – the preparation.

d). This is so important as we are admonished in –

Hebrews 4:1

Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

Hebrews 4:11

Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

f). What we see here in Hebrews is that there is a danger for Christians that they may not find themselves entering 'His rest'. Saved unto eternity – yes. But failing to achieve the purpose for their salvation.

g). What we see presented in the third verse of our scripture is a succinct and complete picture of the preparation necessary to be diligent to enter 'His rest' and thereby not to fall short of it – wash yourself / anoint yourself / put on your best garment.

2). And today we are going to deal with the third of these three – put on your best garment. And this third part, being the third of the three, brings the whole process outlined in Ruth to its conclusion.

a). In other words, without making the journey, working in Boaz's field, washing ourselves and anointing ourselves, there will be no best garment to put on.

b). As we will see, our garment is made as a result of our faithful obedience to each part of this process – there is no garment without our proper engagement with the instructions given in Ruth.

3). Within God's economy, being properly clothed is essential for those who would fulfill His purpose. And scripture presents only two positions relative to being clothed.

a). Either a person is clothed or a person is naked; there is no middle ground.

b). Being clothed = acceptance

c). Being naked = rejection

4). We can see this in our foundational type of Adam and the Woman.

a). Firstly, let's remember God's purpose for creating them –

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion

b). In respect of God's stated purpose we find that –

Genesis 2:25

And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

c). Naked = Hebrew word – *arowm* = partially naked – having an inner garment, but no outer garment.

d). Being made in the image and likeness of God, the man and the Woman would have had a covering of glory and this they possessed in readiness for replacing earth's incumbent ruler, Satan. But there was still something that yet remained to be put on – the outer robes of regality, which would only be worn on the day their rulership began. This of course never happened.

e). In fact, because of sin, they even lost the covering of glory they did possess –

Genesis 3:10

So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

f). Naked = Hebrew word - *eyrom* = completely naked

5). In order to deal with their total nakedness there is a sovereign act of God

a). Genesis 3:21

Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

b). What we see is that although God Himself has covered their nakedness so they might appear in His sight, there is no reinstatement of the glory at this point and therefore no clothing in the regal robes of rulership.

c). Although they, because of God's provision of covering, are righteous in His sight, there now remains something more to be accomplished before the glory can return and the regal robes be worn.

d). And this is exactly what we find in God's own commentary in -

1Timothy 2:14

And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. 15 Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing [lit. through the birth of a child] if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.

e). God's sovereign act has provided for their eternal redemption and there remains nothing more to be done in respect of this.

f). But the salvation spoken of in our scripture is conditional - IF - *if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.*

g). Which means it must refer to the salvation to be revealed in the last time - the salvation of the soul - which would be perfectly in keeping with the Woman taken from the man's body being a type of the Bride of Christ taken from Christ's body.

h). Galatians 6:9

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

i). 2Timothy 2:12

If we endure, We shall also reign with Him.

j). Hebrews 3:14

For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

6). Having become in a fallen state, we find that all those born to Adam and Eve, which would include us, are no longer in the image and likeness of God.

a). Genesis 5:3

And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.

b). We are all born -

Ephesians 2:1b

...dead in trespasses and sins,

c). Although man is a three part being - spirit, soul and body - he is born with only two of these parts functioning, the soul and the body - and in this sense he is no longer in God's image.

d). He is also born apart from the glory and thereby no longer in God's likeness.

e). We come into the world just as Job stated -

Job 1:21

And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb,

f). The word for "naked" here is the Hebrew word meaning 'totally naked,' just as the Man and the Woman found themselves as a result of sin.

g). And just as God acted sovereignly to provide a covering for the Man and the Woman's nakedness through the death and shed blood of the animals whose skins He used to cover them, so God has acted sovereignly on our behalf through the death and shed blood of The Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary to provide a covering for us.

h). 2Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

i). Our total nakedness is covered by Christ's righteous act, so that when God looks at us He sees Christ's death, and accepts that as our own.

j). This comes of course as a result of believing on the Lord Jesus Christ – that which we call our new birth – the birth from above – being born again –

John 3:6b

....that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

k). Our spirit, which was dead, is now alive – and in this sense we are once again in the image of God, being a fully functioning three part being. However, we still remain alienated from God's image because we possess a corrupted soul and a decaying body. And in this condition we cannot receive the covering of glory. And without the covering of glory there can be no regal robes of rulership, and no fulfillment of God's purpose for man as it relates to us as an individual – 'let them have dominion'.

l). And remember once again, all this has to do with entrance into or exclusion from the Millennial Kingdom of Christ – not eternity.

m). Although we are properly clothed in relation to eternity (having the imputed righteousness of Christ), we still remain naked in respect of a position of rulership in the coming Kingdom.

7). And this is particularly shocking because of what we find written about the Church as it appears in its entirety at the Judgment Seat of Christ – the very location where positions of rulership will be determined.

a). Revelation 3:17

"Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' --and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked –

b). According to the evidence of scripture, much of the Church will be found to be naked at the Judgment Seat, and therefore cut off from a position of rulership in the Kingdom.

c). And this is exactly what Christ taught in the parable of the Wedding Guest –

d). Matthew 22:1

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: 2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, 3 "and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. 4" Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding."' 5 "But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. 6 "And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. 7 "But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. 8 "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 "Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the

wedding.' 10 "So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. 12 "So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. 13 "Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 "For many are called, but few are chosen."

So the one without a wedding garment gets taken outside into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth – *extraordinary, extreme grief*. And the reason for the grief is clear: anyone who shows up on that day not properly clothed will know exactly what it is they did and didn't do that got them in that position, and at that point there will be nothing they can do about it. And there will be grief for what could have been.

And notice that it says "many are called." Sure, there are millions called out of the world into the Church across the world – they are "called." They have eternal security. However, out of those "called," only "few are chosen" – FEW ARE CHOSEN (literally "called out") OUT OF THE CALLED. In order to be called out of the called, you have to be properly prepared. And there are FEW who find themselves properly prepared.

i/ This is what awaits the 'Orpah' Christian, the foolish virgins, the unfaithful servant, Lot's wife.

ii/ Those Christians who these types represent will have no best garment to be able to put on – they will not have properly prepared themselves.

8). There is of course a recommended action to avoid this situation –

a). Revelation 3:18

"I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

b). The "best garment" of Ruth, the "wedding garment" of our parable and the "white garments" of Revelation 3 are all one and the same thing.

c). For those who take heed of Christ's words here in Revelation...those who are properly prepared like Ruth... we find this outcome –

d). Revelation 19:6

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife

has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

e). The event recorded here comes at the end of the Great Tribulation, the redemption of the inheritance, when the Kingdom of Christ is established. It is at this point that the Bride, who has been identified at the Judgment Seat, becomes Christ's wife, assuming the position of co-heir.

f). And at this point, she puts on the regal robes of rulership – the fine linen clean and bright.

9). This is Ruth's 'best garment' – it doesn't get any better than this. And our scripture tells us exactly what this garment is made of – the righteous acts of the saints. These are plural and we would understand them to be continual and progressive.

10). So what are the righteous acts of the saints? If we look at what is written concerning Abraham we will understand this –

James 2:21

Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

a). And there is God's further commentary on this in –

Hebrews 11:17

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

11). So from our scriptures we can see that Abraham had believed what God had said about his inheritance. And having believed God he then acted upon what he had believed and his faith was 'made perfect' – *brought to its goal* – and this was accounted to him for righteousness.

12). And in essence, this is what our own righteous acts will look like. We will believe what God has said about our inheritance in the coming Kingdom and then we will organize our lives by acting on what we have believed.

a). Each and every time we do this it will be accounted to us for righteousness, thereby producing the fine linen, clean and bright, of our wedding garment.

b). As we do this our faith is also brought to its goal – reaching its ultimate goal in –

1Peter 1:9

...receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls.

c). Our acts of righteousness will result in the salvation of our souls, which will be revealed at the Judgment Seat of Christ. At this point we will once again be in the image of God, possessing a redeemed spirit, a redeemed soul and an incorruptible body. And being in His image will result in our also being in His likeness – receiving that which was lost in the Garden – the inner garment, the covering of glory –

Colossians 3:4

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Romans 8:17

...and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

d). Our acts of righteousness that will have resulted in the salvation of our souls (enabling us to be clothed with glory at the Judgment Seat) will then translate at the end of the redemption of the inheritance into the outer garment, our wedding garment, our regal robes of rulership as we take our place at Christ's side, now fulfilling God's stated purpose – 'let them have dominion'.

13). I am sure that we will realize two things:

a). There is no faith apart from God's word. Faith is believing what God has already said, and specifically what He has said about the Seventh Day, the coming Kingdom –

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

b). Making the journey, working in Boaz's field, washing ourselves and anointing ourselves must all be done in faith and are therefore acts of righteousness – wedding garment material.

c). Just as being filled with the Spirit is an act of righteousness...being transformed by the renewing of our minds is an act of righteousness...working out our own salvation in fear and trembling is an act of righteousness...putting to death the deeds of the flesh is an act of righteousness...doing our work heartily as to the Lord is an act of righteousness...and of course, all this is accomplished as we continually come before our High Priest and confess our sins, which is itself an act of righteousness.

14). Concerning our acts of righteousness, our faithful obedience, let's remember –

1Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 ¶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

a). James 1:2

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

b). 2Peter 1:2

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 ¶ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 12 ¶ For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. 13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you...

15). Let us remember that it is Christ's sacrifice in all its horror that has made this possible for us

a). But from Christ's perspective –

Hebrews 12:2

....who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

b). Who, to see that joy realized, gave Himself up –

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

16). And we will see in that Day -

Psalms 45:1

<<To the Chief Musician. Set to "The Lillies." A Contemplation of the sons of Korah. A Song of Love.>> My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the King; My tongue is the pen of a ready writer. 2 You are fairer than the sons of men; Grace is poured upon Your lips; Therefore God has blessed You forever. 3 Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One, With Your glory and Your majesty. 4 And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness; And Your right hand shall teach You awesome things. 5 Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the King's enemies; The peoples fall under You. 6 ¶ Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. 7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions. 8 All Your garments are scented with myrrh and aloes and cassia, Out of the ivory palaces, by which they have made You glad. 9 Kings' daughters are among Your honorable women; At Your right hand stands the queen in gold from Ophir. 10 ¶ Listen, O daughter, Consider and incline your ear; Forget your own people also, and your father's house; 11 So the King will greatly desire your beauty; Because He is your Lord, worship Him. 12 And the daughter of Tyre will come with a gift; The rich among the people will seek your favor. 13 The royal daughter is all glorious within the palace; Her clothing is woven with gold. 14 She shall be brought to the King in robes of many colors; The virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to You. 15 With gladness and rejoicing they shall be brought; They shall enter the King's palace. 16 Instead of Your fathers shall be Your sons, Whom You shall make princes in all the earth. 17 I will make Your name to be remembered in all generations; Therefore the people shall praise You forever and ever.

The question that remains for us as we close for this morning is, When we stand before that Judgment Seat (which we all will), will you be naked or will you be properly clothed? The choice is yours and is to be made now, in this age ... TODAY....

Hebrews 3:7

Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, 8 DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS, 9 WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED Me BY TESTING Me, AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS. 10 "THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY WITH THIS GENERATION, AND SAID, 'THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART, AND THEY DID NOT KNOW MY WAYS'; 11 AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, 'THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.'"