

Review of Ruth Ch. 1 & 2

Story of Ruth goes like a beautiful movie.

In Ch. 1 there was a famine in the land.

Family of Elimelech, Naomi, & 2 sons responded by doing something that seemed to make sense – left Bethlehem for neighboring country of Moab.

They were really **NOT trusting God**,
and so it was **exactly the wrong thing to do**.

They leaned on their own understanding, and things got worse.

In leaving Israel they were:

1. outside of the land & borders of God's promise
2. outside of fellowship with other Jews
3. Away from their tribe
4. To a country that God calls **His rubbish bin**

The two sons married Moab ladies.

Marrying a non-believer is **never a good idea**.

Eventually **Elimelech** and the **two sons** died in Moab, leaving...
Naomi (wife) and 2 daughters-in-law (now widows).

Naomi heard that the famine was finished
& Bethlehem now had plenty of bread.

So, decided to return to her homeland.

Naomi told her daughters-in-law (**Orpah & Ruth**) to stay in Moab & return back to their own families & their own gods.

Orpah – did exactly that.

But Ruth – decided to stay with Naomi.

READ 1:16-17

Ruth 1:16 But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, *or to* turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people *shall* be my people, And your God, my God.

Ruth 1:17 Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If *anything but* death parts you and me."

Naomi and Ruth returned to Bethlehem.

God's timing was perfect --

Two arrived at the beginning of barley harvest.

Needing food, Ruth went to the barley fields to harvest & take home any grain the They are poor and need food.

In Ch. 2

Ruth & Naomi needed food

so followed God's law Ruth went out to the field & picking up the barley stalks the harvesters missed.

And **God moved in a natural way** to take care of Ruth and Naomi.

She approached the farm foreman **with humility**.

After getting permission and then **worked hard** in barley field.

Then the **farm owner** arrived – **Boaz**.

Boaz noticed someone new & **foreman gave** a very good report about Ruth.

- Arrived early
- Worked hard
- Only took a short break

Boaz was **impressed with Ruth** & gives her great favor.

Romance may have started to develop, but it isn't clear.

At **end of the first day collecting barley**, Naomi asks Ruth "Whose field did you go to?"

Ruth answers she was at the field of someone called Boaz.

And Naomi is excited because Boaz is a close relative, a kinsman.

At this point, we **pick up in our study in Ruth Ch. 3**

Naomi and Ruth now have barley to eat, but there is **no real security**.

Ruth – Ch. 3

God brings that security in here in Ch. 3

Don't know how much time between Ch. 2 & 3

- Barley harvest appears to be finished.
- It could have been days or weeks

Naomi has an idea – begins to be the **Jewish matchmaker**.

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?

NKJV: “security”

NIV: “home”

Hebrew word means “quiet”

“a settled spot” (figuratively “home”)

Naomi continues

Ruth 3:2 Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.

Naomi reminds Ruth that Boaz is a relative.

And then says, “I know where he’ll be tonight – **winnowing** at the **threshing floor**.”

Threshing floor – flat area where the wind blows well.

Top of a hill, perhaps.

Winnowing is throwing your grain into the air & letting the wind blow away the grain stems and chaff.

Chaff is part that covers the grain (**husk**)

At night, Men would sleep on the threshing floor next to the grain until it could be taken away?

Can anyone guess why?

Thieves

Naomi suggests that Ruth follows the Legal and traditional custom in Deuteronomy 25.

Law of the go’el (close relative kinsman redeemer)

Deuteronomy 25:5 “If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her.

Deuteronomy 25:6 And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.

Deuteronomy 25:7 But if the man does not want to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate to the elders, and say, 'My husband's brother refuses to raise up a name to his brother in Israel; he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother.'

Deuteronomy 25:8 Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him. But if he stands firm and says, 'I do not want to take her,'

Deuteronomy 25:9 then his brother's wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and answer and say, 'So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother's house.'

Deuteronomy 25:10 And his name shall be called in Israel, 'The house of him who had his sandal removed.'

One relative – NOT A CHRISTIAN –told me “You have to admit, there’s a lot of crazy stuff in the Bible.”

Then mentioned this part of Deuteronomy.

“Crazy” – because she didn’t understand it.

BTW – if anyone criticizes the Bible or Christianity, they:

- Don’t quote the Bible right
- Don’t really understand it
- Both

Recent Quote:

People who criticize the Bible really make no attempt to understand it.

Back to my story:

My father just passed away, she said this part of the Bible required my widow mother to marry my father’s brother.

She didn’t really know this part of the Bible or understand it.

Deuteronomy 25:5 only applies if the widow had no son.

- Well, I’m the son.
- The widow is not required to get married to anyone.

THE LAW GO’EL DOES 3 BIG THINGS:

1. Law makes sure she doesn’t fall into poverty.

A widow can’t work the land. She needs help.

It allows the widow to have a future and not need to sell any land they had.

2. Keeps the of the dead husband going on.

NOT a big deal for us, but it DEFINITELY WAS for them.

NKJV “son of _____” 1,150+ times.

- Genesis 11:31, Lot is called “**Lot, the son of Haran**” not “**Lot, Abram’s nephew.**”
- Book of Joshua says “**Joshua, the son of Nun**” 10X
 - Emphasis is on who’s his Daddy.
 - Not “assistant of Moses”
- **NT Matthew 16:17** Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, **Simon Bar-Jonah**, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

3. Law keeps any land in the family.

Keeping land within the family was A BIG DEAL back then.

Leviticus 25:10 And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family.

Israelites entered the Promised land

Each tribe took regions of land (Dan in N Judah in S)

Each family took part of that land.

Every 50 years BIG THINGS – debts cancelled, slaves went free

Your family land came back to you.

This law kept the family land with the family.

4th thing -- Kind of joked (think it's true) – helped make sure a son didn't marry a stubborn woman.

Family pressure to find a good Jewish girl (that everyone can get along with)

Deuteronomy 25 – v. 7-10 SHOW 2 THINGS:

1. WIDOW'S LEGAL RIGHT TO APPROACH THE ELDERS & DEMAND TO BE MARRIED

V.7 "he will not perform the **duty**...of my husband's brother.'

Also means she didn't have to do it if she didn't want to.

2. CULTURAL PRESSURE TO MARRY THE WIDOW.

V. 8 If you **don't marry the widow** -- Village elders **push you** to marry her.

V. 9 The widow takes off your sandal & spits in your face in public.

V. 10 Your village gives you a new name "There's John, the man whose sandal was taken off."

Up in Deuteronomy verse 5, it mentions this redeemer must be

1. "If brothers dwell together..." **GREW UP SAME HOUSE**

2. "the husband's brother" **BRO. THE SAME MO/FA**

Someplace in history, the practice of marrying a widow expanded:

- from "brother (sharing the same father)
- to "nearest living relative."

Naomi never says how Ruth's dead husband; Elimelech & Boaz were related. It's only "close relative."

Naomi's idea: go to Boaz and **ask he marries you.**

Naomi was not telling Ruth, "Go to Boaz because you'll find some money there."

- "de-toother"
- "Gold digger"

It's all about following God's law in Deuteronomy.

It is the **go'el** -- That man had the responsibility of raising a son for the deceased husband.

Regarded as fully proper.

She was coming in the name of Elimelech.

Ruth had the right to appear to Boaz.

v.3 Naomi tells Ruth how to get the job done.

Ruth 3:3 Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.

1. Go and bathe.
2. Make yourself smell nice. Perfume “Channel #5, Moon of Moab”
3. Wear something nice
4. Don't bother him under AFTER he's done with dinner.
 - a. There are a lot of nice people out there.
 - b. If they're tired from working & hungry they're NOT NICE

Church – ladies' ministry retreat.

Young ladies asked leadership to discuss “**how to find a husband.**”

Ruth 3:4 Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do.”

Ruth 3:5 And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do.”

Again, people slept by the grain to keep it from being stolen.

Boaz slept there b/c he was a good manger.

Pro 27:23-24 Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, and attend to your herds;
For riches are not forever, nor does a crown endure to all generations.

A **Servant** waits at the feet.

It was a way to show humility and trust.

She did speak like an annoying lawyer demanding her rights “Pursuant to Deuteronomy Ch. 25, verse 5, subsection 2...”

Ruth 3:6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her.

Ruth 3:7 And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.

Ruth 3:8 Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet.

Ruth 3:9 And he said, "**Who are you?**"

So she answered, "**I am Ruth, your maidservant.**

Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative."

v.9 What words does Ruth use to describe herself?

I am Ruth, your maidservant.

v.9b She says "Take your maidservant under your wing"

Clear request for protection and marriage.

She's really saying "I'm claiming you as you Redeemer.

Hebrew word for "close relative" here is ga'el, which is the word for "redeemer who is a close relative."

Boaz has a **good reputation in the community.**

Saw that last week.

He's got land & several workers for it.

Ruth has a **good reputation in the community, too.**

Boaz explains that soon.

Wonderful scene. You can imagine it as a movie.

Guys: It's midnight.

You're startled & you wake you to find a woman at your feet.

Moon lights up her face. She smells nice & has a nice dress on.

And she says "I am your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you're my redeemer"

Is this nice?

- **Do you want a wife like this?**
- **How can you get a wife like this? Be a Boaz.**

Generous, trustworthy, caring, godly.

Having earned the respect of those around you.

Ephesians 5:28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

Ladies: Last few years hard. You're now single.

And you need the protection of a husband.

But there's a great guy around.

He has land and a good reputation in town.

He's given you special attention and been very kind to you.

It's midnight & moon is shining. You rest as his feet. Then he wakes up.

He's right in front of you and asks "Who are you?"

Is this nice?

- **Do you want a husband like this?**
- **How can you get a husband like this? Be a Ruth.**

Loving and caring for your mother-in-law.

Submitting yourself to the Word of God and authority.

Polite to others, hard working.

Proverb 31:30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

WHAT USUALLY HAPPENS IN MARRIAGE?

Husband waits for the wife to change.

The wife waits for the husband to change.

Ephesians 5 -

Tells the husband to do his part & the wife to do her part.

There's even a book: Why Should I be the First to Change?

My Spouse Won't Change, Why Should I?

We finally come to Boaz's response.

Ruth 3:10 Then he said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich.

Boaz basically said:

"I'm surprised you want me to do this."

He did not feel that everywoman in town wanted him.

Good, shows humility.

The second part he essentially says:

"You could have pursued other men in town, including ones younger and richer than I am."

He had the right to force himself on Ruth.

He was kind enough to NOT act as a go'el

Attraction Ruth had to Boaz was not:

- Image
- Status
- Clothing
- Money, Land

It was based on respect.

Which is what God requires. **Ephesians 5.**

Boaz Continues:

Ruth 3:11 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.**

I'll do it.

"all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman."

Boaz was attracted to Ruth because of her **character.**

Nothing is said (good or bad) **about her looks.**

Virtuous: morally excellent

Ch.2:1 Boaz is "a man of great wealth."

Other Places in OT it's translated as "a mighty man of valor." חַיִּיל chayil
army (56x), man of valour (37x), host (29x), forces (14x), valiant (13x), strength (12x),
riches (11x), wealth (10x), power (9x), substance (8x), might (6x), strong (5x)

Don't rent the venue yet.

Don't call the caterer.

Ruth 3:12 Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I.

Ruth 3:13 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! Lie down until morning."

Problem: Boaz was doing things right, he was not cutting corners.

Cutting Corners:

1. Man saying "Come and Stay"
2. A pastor (NOT HERE) told a friend man:

"You've had the introduction.

According to customs of our tribe, that's enough."

That was a church pastor saying "You can cut a corner."

Boaz did things right.

Ruth 3:14 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."

No scandal. He wants to control the flow of information.

We'll see why soon in the next chapter.

“brother” means “brother” or “Bretheren” relative.

This other close relative was closer to Elimelech than Boaz.

Had first right to:

1. Buy back the land that Elimelech sold before leaving for Moab
2. Marry Ruth (following the law in Deut to protect widow)

Ruth 4:4 And **I thought to inform you**, saying, 'Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, **and I am next after you.**' " And he said, "**I will redeem it.**"

The man said, “Yes, I will exercise my option as **go’el**, kinsman redeemer”

It looks like Boaz is making a mistake.

Boaz only mentioned the land he could buy.

Looks like property transaction.

“I’ll take it.”

Then Boaz mentions Ruth.

Ruth 4:5 Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from **Ruth the Moabitess**, the wife of the dead, **to perpetuate the name of the dead** through his inheritance."

He have to marry her daughter-in-law, the **Moabitess**.

Obligated to **have children** with her, continue the name of Elimelech.

Adding a wife, then children.

Ruth 4:6 And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own **inheritance**. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

Looks like man is **already married**.

On his death his land would be split between children he already has **and** any children from Ruth.

Gets to explain to his wife – I’m bringing home a 2nd wife, from Moab.

good decision – “No” “You redeem it.”

Boaz had love for Ruth.

The other kinsman didn't.

He never met Ruth. No lover for her.

I TALK ABOUT BOOK OF RUTH IS ALL ABOUT JESUS

BOAZ is like JESUS

“a man of great wealth.”

Giving us kindness, favour we don't deserve
Position to redeem us.

RUTH is like US SINNERS

poor, no future, needing protection
Plus, she's a GENTILE

Who is OTHER KINSMAN?

What do we know about him?

1. First in line
2. He can do part of the job – buy the land back
3. He can't do the 2nd part – marry & take care of Ruth

OTHER KINSMAN represents the LAW

Law came first

it was first, Jesus came later

Law

only covered up our sin.

Sacrifices had to made every year.

Could not buy us back.

The law does not love.

Jeremiah OT Prophet announced a new covenant was coming.

We know It's Messiah -- Jesus.

Jeremiah 31:31 “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—

Paul explains LAW DID NOT REDEEM.:

Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

THE law does not justify anyone..

The law really shows us our sin. It shows we don't make it.

Sacrifices only covered up our sins, the never got rid of them

No one can become righteous through the law.

Jesus announced HE IS the new covenant:

Luke 22:20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is **the new covenant in My blood**, which is shed for you.

Hebrews explains, too.

Hebrews 9:15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the **redemption** of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

The other kinsman likely represents the LAW.

It came first, but could not justify anyone before God.

Ruth 4:7 Now this was the custom in **former times** in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel.

Ruth 4:8 Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself." So he took off his sandal.

When the first kinsman refused to redeem the land & Ruth

Deut. 25 says the woman will:

- (1) remove the man's shoe
- (2) spit in his face public.

Who approached the other kinsman? Boaz.

Saved the other kinsman from humiliation if Ruth had done it.

Being spat upon is humiliating, worse in public.

No need for spitting – **everyone is happy.**

Why take off the sandal?

Joshua 14:9 So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children's forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.'

Guess – shows the person is not totally following God.

Ruth 4:9 And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi.

Ruth 4:10 Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. **You are**

witnesses this day."

It's a **legally-binding** transaction.

Boaz is not ashamed he's **marrying a Moabitess**.

Now the name of Elimelech will continue on.

"You are witnesses this day"

There should be **witnesses to their love**.

something missing in your marriage if you are not married in front of witnesses.

Ruth 4:11 And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said, "We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.

Rachel and Ruth – have a bunch of kids!!!

Ruth 4:12 May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this young woman."

Ruth 4:13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.

v. 14 Focus back to Naomi.

Ruth 4:14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel!

Ruth 4:15 And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him."

Same Naomi who said:

Ruth 1:20 But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.

Ruth 1:21 I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

Other women are telling Naomi now "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative"

"God has really taken care of you!"

Ruth 4:16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him.

Now she has a grandson.

End of this book shows **blessings of one poor widow who got Right with God.**

Life application here for us:

- Is your life messed up?
- Get right with God, and let God start fixing things.

Ruth 4:17a Also the **neighbor women** gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Obed: "worshipper" or "servant."

Ruth 4:17b Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

This was David, **great King of Israel.**

Ruth 4:18 Now this is the genealogy of Perez: Perez begot Hezron;

Ruth 4:19 Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab;

Ruth 4:20 Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon;

Ruth 4:21 Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed;

Ruth 4:22 Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot **David.**

DAVID

- Great King of Israel
- Writer of so ~1/2 (76) Psalms.
- Great man of character.
- All began in Ruth.

David had a descendant, also born in Bethlehem.

Requirements of a Kinsman Redeemer (go'el)

1. Near kinsman
1. Able to redeem
2. Willing to redeem

1. JESUS IS A NEAR KINSMAN (HUMAN)

Hebrews 2:14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of **flesh and blood**, He Himself likewise **shared in the same, that through death** He might destroy him who had

the power of death, that is, the devil,

Hebrews 2:15 and **release** those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

The law wasn't human. It was written on parchment.

God became a human, just like you and me.

2. JESUS IS WILLING TO REDEEM

Romans 3:24 being justified freely by **His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,**

3. JESUS IS ABLE TO REDEEM

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore **He is also able to save** to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

HOW ELSE IS THE BOOK OF RUTH ABOUT JESUS?

Boaz was motivated by Love for Ruth.

God was motivated by love for us.

John 3:16 For God so **loved the world** that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Plan of Boaz looked foolish.

Other kinsman (at first) willing to take on responsibility.

Jesus plan to die on the cross looked foolish, too.

- Matthew 16:21 Jesus told the disciples
- that He must go to Jerusalem
- and suffer many things from the leaders
- be killed, and be raised the third day.

Matthew 16:22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"

1Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Boaz gave Ruth a Wedding.

Does Jesus give us a wedding?

Revelation 19:7 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."

Boaz gave Ruth a great future.

Jesus gave us a great future. Eternity with Him.

The book of Ruth – all about Jesus.

Next week: Ruth 1-4. Overview, looking at other things.

Comparing Elimelech and Boaz. Security comes from a special person.

Ruth found it in Boaz. We find it in Jesus.

Boaz: kindness to those who don't deserve.

Reached out to the outcast and foreigner.

We need security

Jesus is the Boaz.

We are the Ruth

Boaz has the right office – close relative.

Jesus – prophet, king, and priest. Fully God and fully man.

Boaz – had the resources.

Jesus has all the resources.

Boaz loved Ruth.

Jesus loves you.

3. Ruth had to take a risk of faith in Boaz.

Security only comes when we put our faith in Jesus.

We must put our complete faith in Jesus.

4. Ruth made a bold appeal to Boaz.

We must make a bold appeal to Jesus.

Jesus will never deny an appeal that is made in faith.

Boaz had to do things the right way.

Jesus had to do things the right way.

“The son of man will be turned over...”

Peter cut off the _____ ear.”

Deuteronomy 25:5 “If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the

widow of the dead man shall not be *married* to a stranger outside *the family*; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her.

Deuteronomy 25:6 And it shall be *that* the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.

Deuteronomy 25:7 But if the man does not want to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate to the elders, and say, 'My husband's brother refuses to raise up a name to his brother in Israel; he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother.'

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Deuteronomy 25:9 then his brother's wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and answer and say, 'So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother's house.'

Deuteronomy 25:10 And his name shall be called in Israel, 'The house of him who had his sandal removed.'

Book of Ruth is often thought of as only being a Bible book for women.
Ruth is written to all of us.

The book of Ruth is read by Jews all over the world during the Jewish holiday of Shavuot.

Feast of Weeks & Pentecost

When is Shavuot in 2018?

Sundown of 19 May (Saturday) to sundown of 21 May (Monday)

The Book of Ruth is read on Shavuot because:

- (1) King David, Ruth's descendant, was born and died on Shavuot (Jerusalem Talmud Hagigah 2:3)
- (2) Shavuot is harvest time [Exodus 23:16], and the events of Book of Ruth occur at harvest time;
- (3) Because Shavuot is traditionally cited as the day of the giving of the Torah, the entry of the entire Jewish people into the covenant of the Torah is a major theme of the day. Ruth's conversion to Judaism, and consequent entry into that covenant, is described in the book.
- (4) some other reasons.

Dating – time with each other but in a group of people.

Much in the dating game works against forming long-lasting relationship.

Making & breaking of relationships.