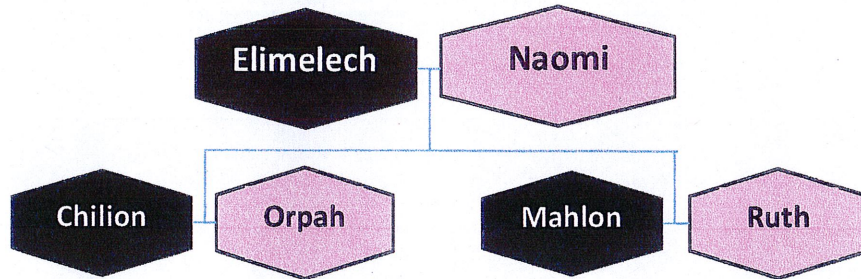


Ruth Chapter 3

The Players:



"Hesed" = Hebrew word	Kinsman Redeemer
<p>Description:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One-way love; unbalanced, uneven • Commitment love • Not centered on fairness • Determination to do someone good, no matter the impact on you • Mentioned >250 times in Bible (mostly of God) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ God of loving kindness ○ Absolute loyalty ○ Obligating Himself to bring blessings—no matter the cost to Him • Persistent & unconditional tenderness, kindness, and mercy • <i>"Love without an exit strategy"</i> (Paul E. Miller) • <i>"Melody line of the book of Ruth"</i> (S. Ferguson) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up in Mosaic law (Lev 25:25-55) • Male member of the family who rescues another member (usually a woman) who has fallen on hard times • Obligation to safeguard family regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continuation of the family ○ Land & property in the Promised Land <p>Could/Should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore property • Buy back relatives if enslaved in debt • Avenge a relative's murder • Assist in a lawsuit • Ensure justice was served for a relative <p>Levirate law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • brother marries his dead brother's widow; propagates heirs • Inheritance continues to be associated with the deceased brother's name (not the redeemer)

3 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you? ²Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you were? See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. ³Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴But when he lies down, observe the place where he lies. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do." ⁵And she replied, "All that you say I will do."

Naomi was seeking true rest for Ruth

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3
<p>⁸ ...“Go, return each of you to her mother's house... ⁹ The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!”</p>	<p>And she lived with her mother-in-law.</p>	<p>“My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you?”</p>



⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her. ⁷ And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down. ⁸ At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! ⁹ He said, “Who are you?” And she answered, “I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer.” ¹⁰ And he said, “May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. ¹¹ And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman. ¹² And now it is true that I am a redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I. ¹³ Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, as the LORD lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning.”

¹⁴So she lay at his feet until the morning, but arose before one could recognize another. And he said, "Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." ¹⁵And he said, "Bring the garment you are wearing and hold it out." So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley and put it on her. Then she went into the city. ¹⁶And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "How did you fare, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her, ¹⁷saying, "These six measures of barley he gave to me, for he said to me, 'You must not go back empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'" ¹⁸She replied, "Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest but will settle the matter today."

Ezekiel 16

⁴And as for your birth, on the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. ⁵No eye pitied you, to do any of these things to you out of compassion for you, but you were cast out on the open field, for you were abhorred, on the day that you were born.

⁶"And when I passed by you and saw you wallowing in your blood, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' ⁷I made you flourish like a plant of the field. And you grew up and became tall and arrived at full adornment. Your breasts were formed, and your hair had grown; yet you were naked and bare.

⁸"When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and *I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord GOD, and you became mine.*

"[Boaz's response] has enchanted the centuries—a tenderness sweetly discriminating, morally meticulous, wide-hearted and ripe."

Cynthia Ozick
Metaphor and Memory

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"Yahweh does not guide human affairs through intermittent miracles followed by long periods of apparent retreat. Rather, His activity is hidden behind the actions of human agents, yet he is presumed to be the implicit, immanent cause of events. Hence He is the cause of even the smallest "accidental" details of life... One theological foundation on which the book of Ruth firmly rests is belief in God's hidden but continuous all causality."

Robert L. Hubbard
The Book of Ruth