

“Romance and Relationship” | Ruth 3  
May 21, 2017

## Scripture Reading: Ruth 3:7-11

### Introduction

- *Simple truths, profound truths*

**Big Idea:** The greatest love stories in the world pale in comparison to God’s love for us, a love revealed most clearly at the cross.

**\*\*NOTE FOR SINGLES/UNMARRIED/WIDOWS:** not incomplete, learn and grow as well

### Story Recap, Further Backstory

1. Genesis 19:30-38 — Moab’s sexually immoral origins

## I. The Story

### Naomi’s Plan | vs. 1-5

- Uncover גָּלָה (galah)
- Feet / legs רֵגֶל (regel)
- Lie down שָׁכַב (shacav)

### Ruth Makes a Move | vs. 6-9

- Remember Ruth 2:12? — The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!

### Boaz Speaks Blessing | vs. 10-13

### A New Obstacle | vs. 12-13

### Ruth and Boaz Part Ways | vs. 14-15

### Naomi’s Blessing | vs. 16-18

- Remember Ruth 1:21? — I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?

## II. True Romance

1. True romance is enthralling
  - a. Ray Ortlund — Rather than quenched by the dreary waves of monotonous daily life, real love sweeps us away by its overwhelming power. Falling in love is a

kind of temporary insanity, hurling us into the reckless abandon that marital commitment truly is. Fortunately, in a healthy marriage, though we recover our right minds to some degree, the sweet craziness never completely leaves us. As the years roll by, a married couple inevitably suffers the buffetings of this life. But biblical marriage is resilient, for “many waters cannot quench love.”

2. True romance is exclusive
  - a. Boaz: “you have not run after the other young men”
  - b. Alain de Botton (New York Times) — We mustn’t abandon him or her, only the founding Romantic idea upon which the Western understanding of marriage has been based the last 250 years: that a perfect being exists who can meet all our needs and satisfy our every yearning. We need to swap the Romantic view for a tragic (and at points comedic) awareness that every human will frustrate, anger, annoy, madden and disappoint us — and we will (without any malice) do the same to them. There can be no end to our sense of emptiness and incompleteness. But none of this is unusual or grounds for divorce. Choosing whom to commit ourselves to is merely a case of identifying which particular variety of suffering we would most like to sacrifice ourselves for.
3. True romance focuses on the goodness of the other
  - a. Philippians 4:8 — Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
4. True romance involves restraint
5. True romance points us to the gospel

### **III. Gospel Connection: Hesed**

1. Love, kindness, lovingkindness, mercy, faithfulness, favor, covenant-keeping, loyalty
2. Ruth 1:8, 2:20, 3:10
3. Psalm 36:5-7
4. Ephesians 5:25

### **Conclusion**

#### **Benediction**

Psalm 86:5 — For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.