

Sermon Title: Covered by: Pastor Alan Hannah

Big Idea: No claim, just covered.

Naomi Makes a Move [Ruth 3:1-4] - *"¹One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for. ²Now Boaz, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. ³Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do."*

In chapter 2, Naomi's heart begins to change as she experienced the hesed Boaz demonstrated toward Ruth. A love that went beyond what was required was doing something deep within her heart. Naomi no longer as a woman in passive and despair but one who's begun to be strategic and believe again.

Ruth Takes a Risk [Ruth 3:7-9] - *"⁷When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet, and lay down. ⁸In the middle of the night something startled the man; he turned—and there was a woman lying at his feet! ⁹"Who are you?" he asked. "I am your servant Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family."*

By lying at his feet, Ruth's taking a posture of humility and petition, not one of romance or seduction. She's asking him to take the role of her kinsman-redeemer. "Corner of your garment" is the Hebrew word *kanaf*, which means "wings" or "covering."

In Ruth 2:12, Boaz prays this over Ruth, *"May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."*

Boaz Responds [Ruth 3:10-13] - *¹⁰"The LORD bless you, my daughter," he replied. "This kindness (hesed) is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. ¹¹And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character. ¹²Although it is true that I am a guardian-redeemer of our family, there is another who is more closely related than I. ¹³Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to do his duty as your guardian-redeemer, good; let him redeem you. But if he is not willing, as surely as the LORD lives I will do it. Lie here until morning."*

Boaz had limitations, but there is a Kinsman Redeemer with no limits, and His name is Jesus. Boaz is an OT picture of Jesus. He was a preview of who was to come. Someone far greater.

- Boaz could cover Ruth, but Jesus covers every person in the world.
- Boaz covered Ruth at personal cost... his grain, his resources, his reputation, but Jesus covered us at the cost of his own life.
- Boaz's covering was confined by time and law, but Jesus' covering is eternal and unbreakable.
- Boaz made a promise and said he wouldn't rest until it was settled, but Jesus went to the cross and said, "It is finished."

Life Group Discussion Questions

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WARM-UPS:

1. Share about a time when you thought you were covered by insurance, but discovered your claim was denied or the protection was limited.
2. The Bible contains its share of lists. Which ones do you tend to skip? Why?

DISCUSSION:

1. In his book *Inexpressible – Heseid and the Mystery of God’s Lovingkindness*, Michael Card provides a working definition of “heseid” as “When a person from whom I have a right to expect nothing gives me everything.” What do you think were the reactions of those saved by Oskar Schindler’s list?
2. Share about a time when you experienced God’s and another’s “heseid”, a love that went beyond what was required, and it did something deep within your heart like Naomi. What change took place within you and what were your subsequent actions? What risks did you take like Ruth?
3. Again, thinking of Michael Card’s “heseid” definition, share examples from scripture that reinforce this definition. Why are these examples important to you?
4. According to various laws of the Pentateuch, what was a male relative’s privileges, role or responsibility as a kinsman-redeemer? See Leviticus 25:25, 47-49 and Deuteronomy 25:5-6. What was the significance of Ruth’s request for Boaz to act on her behalf as a relative who was in trouble, danger, or need?
5. Review and discuss the significance and benefits of Christ being our Kinsman Redeemer.
6. What did you find most challenging, helpful, or inspiring in the sermon today, and what will you do differently as a result? What did the Holy Spirit impress upon you?

IN THE WORD:

Read the following scriptures passages and discuss how they apply to this week’s sermon about “heseid” and “covering”.

- Deuteronomy 7:6-8a: God’s election and choosing of Israel as acts of unconditional grace
- Psalm 36:5-7: Ruth’s great-grandson, David, echoed Boaz’s and her story in his praise
- Romans 2:5: Kindness that leads to repentance
- Titus 3:4-7: Salvation comes by grace through faith

PRACTICE:

1. We know Oskar Schindler’s list from the powerful film *Schindler’s List* and historical records and that God’s great salvation from the story recorded for us in the Bible. As you read the Scriptures, may His Spirit show us the worth of even the lists. They have something to say to us too. Most importantly, is your name part of another list, the Lamb’s Book of Life?