

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship

Every word inspired.



Every word proclaimed.

“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

1. When upon life's billows
You are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged,
Thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings,
Name them one by one,
And it will surprise you
What the Lord hath done.

Refrain

***Count your blessings,
Name them one by one,
Count your blessings,
See what God hath done!
Count your blessings,
Name them one by one,
And it will surprise you
What the Lord hath done.***

2. Are you ever burdened
With a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy
You are called to bear?
Count your many blessings,
Every doubt will fly,
And you will keep singing
As the days go by.

Refrain

3. When you look at others
With their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised
You His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings.
Wealth can never buy
Your reward in Heaven,
Nor your home on high.

Refrain

4. So, amid the conflict
Whether great or small,
Do not be disheartened,
God is over all;
Count your many blessings,
Angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you
To your journey's end.

Refrain

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“A Proposal That Will Change Eternity”

Ruth 3:1-9

May 1, 2016

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Ruth 1:8-9

8 And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

9 "May the Lord grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband."

Naomi was faced with three issues:

1. How could the name of Elimelech be maintained among the tribes of Israel since both her sons were now dead?
2. What steps should be taken to protect her inheritance, which Elimelech had left in Naomi's trust?
3. How could she provide rest and security for her faithful daughter-in-law?

Naomi's solution:

1. A marriage between Ruth and Boaz would solve all three problems.
2. Naomi is insightful enough to realize what's going on. So she has decided that it's time for the two of them to discuss their relationship. And she sets events in motion.

Ruth 3:1-9

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Levirate Law

Lev 25:25

25 'If a fellow countryman of yours becomes so poor he has to sell part of his property, then his nearest kinsman is to come and buy back what his relative has sold.

Deut 25:5-10

5 "When brothers live together and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the deceased shall not be married outside the family to a strange man. Her husband's brother shall go in to her and take her to himself as wife and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her.

6 "It shall be that the firstborn whom she bears shall assume the name of his dead brother, so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel.

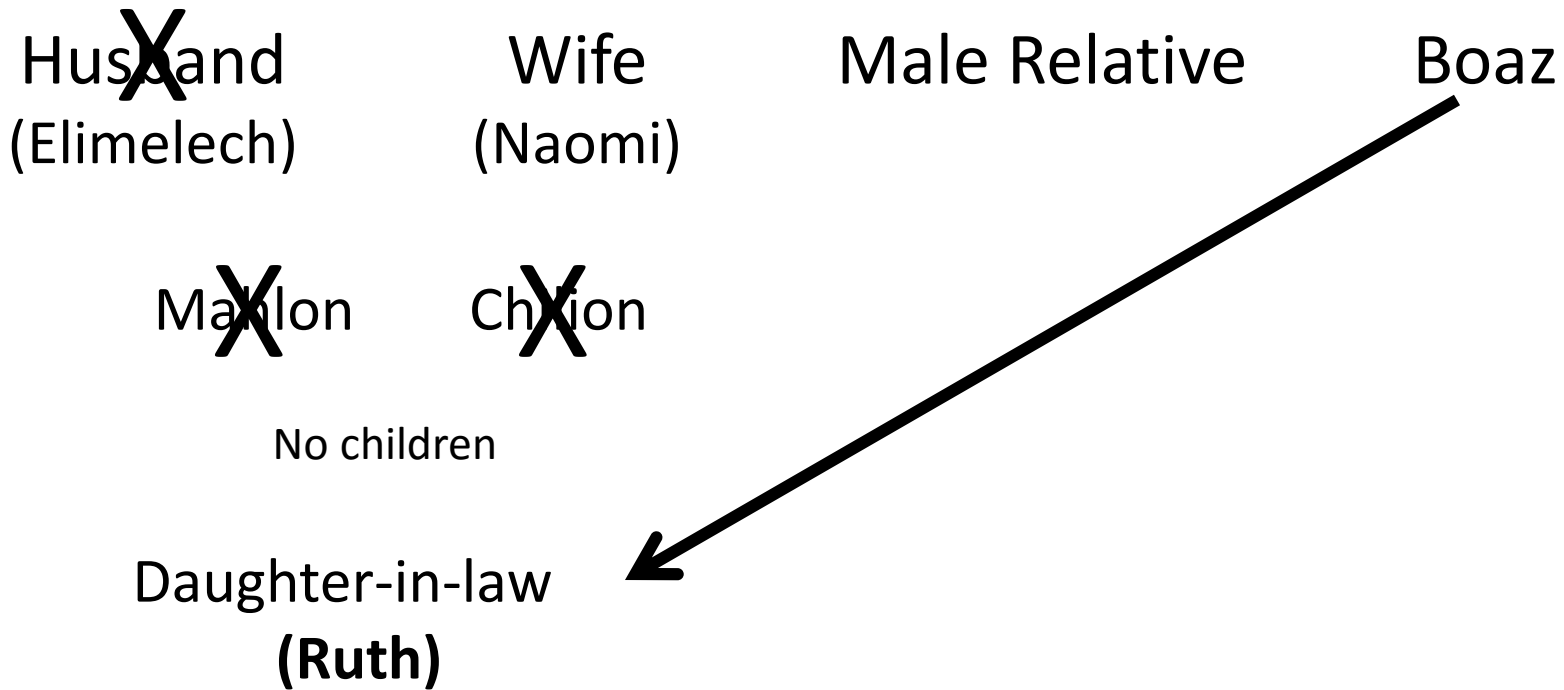
7 "But if the man does not desire to take his brother's wife, then his brother's wife shall go up to the gate to the elders and say, 'My husband's brother refuses to establish a name for his brother in Israel; he is not willing to perform the duty of a husband's brother to me.'

8 "Then the elders of his city shall summon him and speak to him. And if he persists and says, 'I do not desire to take her,'

9 then his brother's wife shall come to him in the sight of the elders, and pull his sandal off his foot and spit in his face; and she shall declare, 'Thus it is done to the man who does not build up his brother's house.'

10 "In Israel his name shall be called, 'The house of him whose sandal is removed.'

Levirate Law As Applied to Ruth



Nearest male relative (lag = goel = “kinsman redeemer”, “a levir”) was to marry the widow . Why?

1. To father a child.
2. To perpetuate the name so that it would not be blotted out.
3. To retain possession of the property by receiving it or by paying the ransom for it.

Ruth 3:1-9

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The instruments of the threshing-floor were probably:

- the wooden sledge
- the fan (fork) for separating straw from wheat
- shovel for tossing the wheat into the air in winnowing
- broom, for sweeping the floor between threshing and for collecting the wheat after winnowing
- goad
- the yoke
- sieve
- dung catcher

Terms used in the harvest of grain:

“harvest” – 75

“threshing” – 53

“threshing floor” - 36

“chaff” – 17

“stubble” – 10

“sickle” - 12

“winnow, winnowing” – 7

“sledge” – 3

“straw” – 20

“barley” – 36

“wheat” - 47





















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Ps 23:5

5 You have anointed my head with oil;
My cup overflows.

Ps 133:1-2

1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brothers to dwell together in unity!

2 It is like the precious oil upon the head,
Coming down upon the beard,
Even Aaron's beard,
Coming down upon the edge of his robes.

Luke 7:37-38

37 And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume,

38 and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume.

Prov 27:9

9 Oil and perfume make the heart glad,

Ruth 3:1-9

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What to do on the first date:

1. Make yourself really attractive.
2. When it is pitch dark out, follow him to determine where he sleeps.
3. Don't let him know that you are there.
4. Sneak up on him after he falls asleep.
5. Uncover his feet.
6. Lie down by him.
7. See what happens.

So what was Naomi thinking?

1. Naomi's suggestion to Ruth was undoubtedly based upon her inward assurance that Boaz and Ruth were both individuals of great integrity in otherwise lawless days.
2. This was a cultural custom of a proposal of that day and made perfect sense. It is still practiced in Israel and in some Arab countries.
3. Others will be sleeping by the grain and around the harvest grounds in tents.
4. Boaz will understand what is going on and that's why Ruth is to wait for his response.

Ruth 3:1-9

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Ruth has a:

1. tender heart
2. a submissive spirit
3. an obedient response

And besides that, Ruth is in a very precarious position.

She is a -

1. foreigner
2. widowed
3. poor

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Threshing floors needed to be guarded –

1 Sam 23:1

23 Then they told David, saying, "Behold, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are plundering the threshing floors."

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What Ruth must have been thinking?

- 1. "What if he rejects me?"***
- 2. "What if he misinterprets my actions?"***
- 3. "What if he publically humiliates me?"***
- 4. "What if he drives me away and refuses to have anything further to do with me?"***
- 5. "I will trust God and His Word"***

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The Proposal

9 “So spread your covering over your maid, for you are a close relative.”

1. “Spread your covering”

“covering” = wings

Ruth 2:12

12 "May the Lord reward your work, and your wages be full from the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge."

Ezek 16:8

8 "Then I passed by you and saw you, and behold, you were at the time for love; so I spread My skirt over you and covered your nakedness. I also swore to you and entered into a covenant with you so that you became Mine," declares the Lord God.

Deut 22:30

30 "A man shall not take his father's wife so that he will not uncover his father's skirt.

Mal 2:16

16 "For I hate divorce," says the Lord, the God of Israel, "and him who covers his garment with wrong," says the Lord of hosts. "So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."







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2. “for you are a close relative”. i.e. Kinsman redeemer

Therefore Ruth is really asking 3 things in her proposal:

1. Will you spread your wings of protection over me and be the means by which God covers me with His wings?
2. Will you be the kinsman-redeemer and protect the inheritance of the land and the preservation of the family name?
3. Will you fulfill the Law and marry me?



Knowles Shaw
1834-1878

Knowles Shaw (October 31, 1834 – June 7, 1878) was an American author and composer noted for his gospel hymns. Shaw was a prolific evangelist as well, known for his wit, knowledge of the Bible, and ability to generate and maintain rapport with an audience. He is thought to have baptized (immersed) some 20 thousand people.

He died in a train wreck in McKinney, Texas (just outside Dallas). He was buried in East Hill Cemetery in Rushville, Indiana. His last words: "It is a grand thing to rally people to the Cross of Christ."

BRINGING IN THE SHEAVES

1. Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness,
Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve;
Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Refrain

***Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves,
Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves,***

2. Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows,
Fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze;
By and by the harvest, and the labor ended,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Refrain

3. Going forth with weeping, sowing for the Master,
Though the loss sustained our spirit often grieves;
When our weeping's over, He will bid us welcome,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Refrain

Application

1. Divine providence does not eliminate human activity.
2. God is able to adapt and accomplish His will regardless of the customs of our culture.
3. Those who have little to lose are often those who take the greatest risks for God.
4. The seemingly insignificant act of a proposal may lead to massive purposes for all eternity.