

Ruth 3:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter,
shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?

Analysis

Naomi initiates marriage plan: **'My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?'** The word 'rest' (manoch, מנוח) means security, settlement, or restful dwelling—specifically the security marriage provided for women in ancient society. Naomi seeks Ruth's welfare through proper marriage to a kinsman-redeemer. Her motherly care demonstrates covenant responsibility—she doesn't merely receive Ruth's provision but actively seeks Ruth's good. This shows biblical pattern: older believers should actively seek younger believers' spiritual and practical welfare, not merely receive from them.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern widows faced extreme vulnerability without male protection and provision. Remarriage provided economic security, social status, and potential children. Levirate marriage customs (Deuteronomy 25:5-10) allowed deceased man's brother to marry the widow, preserving family line and property. Naomi's plan to approach Boaz followed these customs, seeking proper legal marriage rather than improper relationship. Her initiative demonstrated wisdom and care—Ruth was foreign and unfamiliar with these customs.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Naomi's active seeking of Ruth's welfare model Christian mentorship and discipleship?
2. What does this teach about the church's responsibility to seek members' practical well-being, not merely spiritual benefit?

Interlinear Text

הָלָא	בִּתִּי	חֲמוּלָהּ	נָעֲמִי	לָהּ	וַתֹּאמֶר
H3808					
unto her	My daughter	her mother in law	Then Naomi	said	
H1323		H2545	H5281	H559	
לָהּ:	יִיטֵב,	אֲשֶׁר	מִן וְחַלְלָהּ	אֶבְקֹשׁ	
H0					
for thee	that it may be well		rest	shall I not seek	
H3190		H834	H4494	H1245	

Additional Cross-References

Ruth 1:9 (Parallel theme): The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept.

1 Timothy 5:8 (Parallel theme): But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

1 Timothy 5:14 (Parallel theme): I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

Psalms 128:2 (Parallel theme): For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.

1 Corinthians 7:36 (Parallel theme): But if any man think that he behaveth himself uncomely toward his virgin, if she pass the flower of her age, and need so require, let him do what he will, he sinneth not: let them marry.

Deuteronomy 4:40 (Word): Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, for ever.

Genesis 40:14 (Parallel theme): But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house:

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