

Ruth 3:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich.

Analysis

Boaz's response: '**Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning**'. Boaz blesses Ruth, recognizing her actions as chesed (covenant loyalty). The phrase 'more kindness...than at the beginning' compares her commitment to Naomi (chapter 1) with this new demonstration of chesed—she could have sought a younger, wealthier husband but chose the kinsman-redeemer, prioritizing family line and Naomi's welfare over personal advantage. '**Inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich**' acknowledges age difference and Ruth's preference for covenant fidelity over romantic attraction or financial benefit.

Historical Context

Ancient marriage customs typically involved young women marrying men of their fathers' generation, making age differences common. However, Ruth as widow had more freedom to choose. Boaz's recognition that Ruth 'followed not young men' suggests he was significantly older—perhaps Elimelech's generation. Ruth's choice of covenant-appropriate marriage over potentially more attractive options demonstrated that her conversion to Israel's God included embracing Israel's values and covenant structures. Her chesed extended to preserving Elimelech's line and securing Naomi's future, not merely her own happiness.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does Ruth's covenant-based choice over personal preference teach about Christian decision-making?
2. How does this illustrate prioritizing kingdom purposes over personal advantage?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	בָּרוּךְ הָ	אַתָּה	לְיִהְוָה	בְּתִ
And he said	Blessed	H859	be thou of the LORD	my daughter
H559	H1288		H3068	H1323
הִיטָּבָת	מִסְדָּה	וְ	בְּאֶחָר	זֶה
for thou hast shewed	more kindness	in the latter end	H4480	than at the beginning
H3190	H2617	H314		H7223
לֹכֶת	חַזְקָה	יִם	אֶפְרַיִם	עַשְׂרִים
not	H1980	H310	young men	or rich
H1115		H970	H518	H6223
אֵם	בַּקְעָה	לְ	זֶה	אֵם
whether poor	H1800		H518	H518

Additional Cross-References

Ruth 2:20 (Blessing): And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the LORD, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen.

Ruth 1:8 (References Lord): And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.

Ruth 2:4 (Blessing): And, behold, Boaz came from Beth-lehem, and said unto the reapers, The LORD be with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee.

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