

Ruth 3:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, as the LORD liveth: lie down until the morning.

Analysis

Boaz's plan: **'Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee the part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman's part: but if he will not, then will I do the part of a kinsman unto thee, as the LORD liveth'**. Boaz instructs Ruth to stay until morning for safety and propriety. His promise invokes God's name in oath form—'as the LORD liveth'—showing serious covenant commitment. He'll give the nearer kinsman first opportunity but promises to redeem if that man refuses. The oath demonstrates integrity (proper legal process) and commitment (he WILL redeem her either way). **'Lie down until the morning'** instructs Ruth to sleep safely under his protection until dawn.

Historical Context

Traveling at night was dangerous for women. Boaz's instruction to stay protected Ruth from physical danger and reputational harm—being seen leaving the threshing floor at night could create scandal. His oath 'as the LORD liveth' was legally binding, invoking divine witness. Ancient Israelite oaths calling on God's name carried absolute obligation. Boaz's careful balance of giving the nearer kinsman his legal rights while committing absolutely to Ruth demonstrated both

justice and mercy—he wouldn't circumvent proper process but would definitely redeem if permitted.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Boaz's oath demonstrate combining proper legal processes with passionate personal commitment?
2. What does his protection of Ruth overnight teach about using authority to guard vulnerable people's physical safety and reputation?

Interlinear Text

אִם	הַבֹּקֶר:	וְהָ הַלַּיְלָה לַ יָּנִין
H518	H1242	H3885 H3915 H1961
and it shall be in the morning		Tarry this night
לֹא וְאִם	וְגִאֲלֵת יְיָ	טוֹב וְגִאֲלֵת יְיָ
H3808 H518	H1350	H2896 H1350
let him do the kinsman's part well let him do the kinsman's part	let him do the kinsman's part	let him do the kinsman's part
אֲנִי כִי	וְגִאֲלֵת יְיָ	וְגִאֲלֵת יְיָ
H595	H1350	H2654 H1350
but if he will let him do the kinsman's part	let him do the kinsman's part	let him do the kinsman's part
הַבֹּקֶר:	עַד שֹׁכֵב י	יְהוָה הַ
H1242	H5704	H3068
and it shall be in the morning	lie down	liveth to thee as the LORD
	H7901	H2416

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 4:2 (References Lord): And thou shalt swear, The LORD liveth, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory.

Ruth 4:5 (Parallel theme): Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy it also of Ruth the Moabite, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance.

Ruth 2:20 (References Lord): 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.

Hebrews 6:16 (Parallel theme): For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.

Judges 8:19 (References Lord): And he said, They were my brethren, even the sons of my mother: as the LORD liveth, if ye had saved them alive, I would not slay you.