

Ruth 3:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And she lay at his feet until the morning: and she rose up before one could know another. And he said, Let it not be known that a woman came into the floor.

Analysis

Dawn departure: '**And she lay at his feet until the morning: and she rose up before one could know another**'. Ruth's morning departure before dawn prevented anyone recognizing her, protecting both their reputations. '**And he said, Let it not be known that a woman came into the floor**'. Boaz's concern for Ruth's reputation shows protective care beyond legal obligation. While their encounter was proper, he knew appearances could be misinterpreted. His active protection of her honor demonstrates godly masculinity—using strength to shield rather than exploit the vulnerable.

Historical Context

Ancient honor-shame cultures made reputation crucial, particularly for women. Even proper behavior could be maliciously misrepresented. Boaz's concern to prevent knowledge of Ruth's nighttime presence demonstrated understanding of social dynamics and protective responsibility. Archaeological evidence shows ancient villages had gossip networks making privacy difficult—hence Boaz's careful timing of Ruth's departure before people were awake and moving about. His protective instinct foreshadows Christ's protection of His bride's reputation and honor.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Boaz's protective concern for Ruth's reputation model godly masculine strength used to guard rather than exploit?
2. What does this teach about Christian concern for others' reputations, even when actions are proper?

Interlinear Text

וַתִּשְׁכַּח בָּ	מִרְגָּלֹתָ	עַד	בְּקָר	בְּרֹם	וְתַּקְמִ	בְּרֹם
And she lay	at his feet	H5704	until the morning	and she rose up	before	
H7901	H4772		H1242	H6965	H2958	
יָכַן יְ	אֶת אֶשְׁ	כַּעַד הַ	וְיִ אָמַר	אֶל יְ	יְלֹעַ	כִּי
could know	one	H853	another	And he said	H408	Let it not be known
H5234	H376		H7453	H559	H3045	H3588
בָּאֵשׁ הַ	בְּגַדְךָ:					
came	that a woman	into the floor				
H935	H802	H1637				

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 8:21 (Parallel theme): Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

Romans 14:16 (Parallel theme): Let not then your good be evil spoken of:

1 Corinthians 10:32 (Parallel theme): Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:

1 Peter 2:12 (Parallel theme): Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

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