

Ruth 3:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down.

Analysis

The encounter begins: '**And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn**'. Boaz's contentment ('heart was merry') after successful harvest day shows blessing and satisfaction in God's provision. His lying at 'end of the heap' guarded the grain. '**And she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down**'. Ruth approached quietly, performed the symbolic act (uncovering feet), and positioned herself humbly at his feet, awaiting his response. Her quiet approach and vulnerable positioning demonstrated proper submission and trust in Boaz's integrity.

Historical Context

Ancient harvest celebrations involved joy at successful gathering, with meals and wine shared among workers. Boaz's merry heart reflected legitimate gratitude for provision, not drunkenness as suggested by some interpreters—the narrative portrays him responding with complete moral clarity. Ruth's 'soft' or quiet approach prevented startling Boaz or alerting others, allowing private conversation about redemption. Her positioning at his feet was suppliant posture, not seductive, trusting Boaz would respond with honor befitting his reputation.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does this passage illustrate the balance between bold faith action and humble submission to God's sovereign outcome?
2. What does Boaz's contentment after labor teach about finding joy in God's daily provisions?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּאֲכַל בָּעֵז וַיִּשְׂבַּע וַיִּטְבַּל לְבָבֵךְ וַיַּתְבִּא אֶל־
had eaten And when Boaz and drank was merry and his heart and she came
H398 H1162 H8354 H3190 H3820 H935

וַתִּשְׁכַּב בְּקֶזֶב הַעֲרֵם הַכְּלֵל ט
and laid her down at the end of the heap of corn softly
H7901 H7097 H6194 H935 H3909

וַיַּתְגַּלֵּת הַמְּרַגְּלַת וַיַּתְגַּל
and uncovered his feet and laid her down
H1540 H4772 H7901

Additional Cross-References

Judges 19:6 (Parallel theme): And they sat down, and did eat and drink both of them together: for the damsel's father had said unto the man, Be content, I pray thee, and tarry all night, and let thine heart be merry.

Esther 1:10 (Parallel theme): On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha,

Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king,

2 Samuel 13:28 (Parallel theme): Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant.

Judges 19:9 (Parallel theme): And when the man rose up to depart, he, and his concubine, and his servant, his father in law, the damsel's father, said unto him, Behold, now the day draweth toward evening, I pray you tarry all night: behold, the day groweth to an end, lodge here, that thine heart may be merry; and to morrow get you early on your way, that thou mayest go home.

Psalms 104:15 (Parallel theme): And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart.

Ecclesiastes 10:19 (Parallel theme): A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things.

Ecclesiastes 9:7 (Parallel theme): Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.

Ecclesiastes 2:24 (Parallel theme): There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.

Ecclesiastes 8:15 (Parallel theme): Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labour the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun.