

Sermon Outline and Discussion Questions
Ruth 3 – “Servant-Hearted Proposals”

Main Point: In all of our servant-hearted plans for the good of others, our LORD is at work “both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

I. Servant-Hearted Cleverness (3:1-5)

- a. Naomi is seeking Ruth’s well-being (3:1)
- b. Her Clever Plan (3:2-4)
- c. How God uses our servant-hearted cleverness

II. Servant-Hearted Boldness (3:6-10)

- a. Ruth boldly fulfills Naomi’s plan (3:6-8)
- b. Ruth boldly goes beyond Naomi’s plan and proposes (3:9)
- c. Boaz recognizes Ruth’s kindness toward Naomi (3:10)
- d. Our boldness in the Christian life comes as we put others above ourselves.
- e. Christ and true greatness: “But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,²⁷ and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:26-28).

III. Servant-Hearted Commitment (3:11-18)

- a. Boaz is committed to biblical priorities (3:11)
- b. Boaz is committed to Ruth’s well-being (3:12-14)
- c. Boaz is committed to redeem (3:13-15)
- d. Boaz’s commitment is understood by Naomi (3:16-18)
- e. Christ’s servant-hearted commitment to redeem!!

Reflection Questions

- 1) How might Naomi’s actions be unwise? Still, how might her concern for Ruth and clever planning compel us to be shrewd for the name of Christ at times?
- 2) Do you feel as bold in the Christian life as you would like to be? Why or why not?
- 3) How does Christ define true greatness? Do you tend to live this way? How might having more of a servant’s heart like Ruth move you to greater boldness?
- 4) How does Boaz’s commitment to biblical principles shape what he finds attractive in Ruth? How would a greater concern for covenantal love than romantic love strengthen our marriages?
- 5) How do we know that none of our plans in Christ are wasted or in vain? How is Christ a greater redeemer than Boaz?