

GOD IN THE MARGINS

A golden wheat field under a blue sky. A green fabric strip, possibly a bookmark or a piece of cloth, is draped across the foreground, partially covering the wheat. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

When Your Story Makes No Sense

Risk & Redemption

Ruth 3:1-18

Scene 1: A Sketchy Plan – 3:1-5

Scene 2: A Scandalous Proposal – 3:6-15

Scene 3: Sitting Patiently for Redemption – 3:16-18



Scene 1: A Sketchy Plan – Ruth 3:1-5

1 One day Ruth’s mother-in-law Naomi said to her, “My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for. **2** Now Boaz, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. **3** Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don’t let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. **4** When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do.” **5** “I will do whatever you say,” Ruth answered.



Genesis 19:30-36

30 Lot went up from Zoar, and stayed in the mountains, and his two daughters with him; for he was afraid to stay in Zoar; and he stayed in a cave, he and his two daughters.

31 Then the firstborn said to the younger, “Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come in to us after the manner of the earth. **32** Come, let us make our father drink wine, and let us lie with him that we may preserve our family through our father.”

33 So they made their father drink wine that night, and the firstborn went in and lay with her father; and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. **34** On the following day, the firstborn said to the younger, “Behold, I lay last night with my father; let us make him drink wine tonight also; then you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve our family through our father.” **35** So they made their father drink wine that night also, and the younger arose and lay with him; and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. **36** Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. **37** The firstborn bore a son, and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day.

Scene 2: A Scandalous Proposal – Ruth 3:6-15

6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do.

7 When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down.

8 In the middle of the night something startled the man; he turned—and there was a woman lying at his feet!



Scene 2: A Scandalous Proposal – Ruth 3:6-15 cont.

9 “Who are you?” he asked.

“I am your servant Ruth,” she said. “Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family.”

10 “The Lord bless you, my daughter,” he replied.

“This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor.

11 And now, my daughter, don’t be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character.



Scene 2: A Scandalous Proposal – Ruth 3:6-15 cont.

9 “Who are you?” he asked.

“I am your servant (אָמָה) Ruth,” she said.

VS

2:13b “You have put me at ease by speaking kindly to your servant (שְׂפָחָה)”



Scene 2: A Scandalous Proposal – Ruth 3:6-15 cont.

v. 9

“Spread the corner of your garment (רַנָּף) over me...

2:12 May the Lord repay you for what you have done.
May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of
Israel, under whose wings (רַנָּף) you have come to take
refuge.



Scene 2: A Scandalous Proposal – Ruth 3:6-15 cont.

12 Although it is true that I am a guardian-redeemer of our family, there is another who is more closely related than I. **13** Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to do his duty as your guardian-redeemer, good; let him redeem you. But if he is not willing, as surely as the Lord lives I will do it. Lie here until morning.”

14 So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, “No one must know that a woman came to the threshing floor.”

15 He also said, “Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out.” When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and placed the bundle on her. Then he went back to town.



Scene 3: Sitting Patiently for Redemption – Ruth 3:16-18

16 When Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, “How did it go, my daughter?”

Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her **17** and added, “He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, ‘Don’t go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’”

18 Then Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.”



In Christ we can find redemption for
the poor decisions & mistakes we
have made.



GOD IN THE MARGINS

A photograph of a vast field of golden wheat under a clear blue sky. A single stalk of wheat is in sharp focus in the foreground, reaching upwards. The rest of the field is slightly blurred, creating a sense of depth. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

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