

## **“HIS NAME WAS BOAZ”**

Last month, we considered Ruth as an exemplar of motherhood. Although she only becomes a mother in the final verses of the book bearing her name, what precedes that informs the reader of the upstanding character of that woman. Likewise, we turn our attention today to her husband Boaz as an exemplar of fatherhood. Again, we learn much about his character before he becomes a father.

### **I. BOAZ WAS POLITE TO HIS EMPLOYEES.**

#### **A. Ruth 2:1-4**

He enthusiastically greeted those who worked for him with blessings from God. Some bosses prefer not to be spoken to or to launch into angry criticisms to start the day.

#### **B. Colossians 4:1**

The New Testament teaches masters to regard their servants with consideration of what we wish to receive from the heavenly Master.

### **II. BOAZ WAS KIND TO THE POOR.**

#### **A. Ruth 2:8-9, 14-16**

Knowing Ruth's situation, Boaz took special care that she was not mistreated and, more than that, that she always went away with her hands full.

#### **B. 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:17-19**

It is only right that those blessed with material abundance use their prosperity to bless others, as well.

#### **C. Isaiah 1:17; James 1:27**

God has always had particular concern for orphans and widows and so should we.

### **III. BOAZ LISTENED TO GOOD REPORTS.**

**A. Ruth 2:5-7, 11**

Boaz solicited his personnel for their impression of Ruth, heard it was good, and repeated it back to her.

**B. Proverbs 22:1**

A good reputation is extremely valuable.

**C. Philippians 4:8**

Good reports are to be meditated upon. Gossip and rumors, not so much.

**IV. BOAZ WAS PROMPT IN DUTY.**

**A. Ruth 3:18**

Naomi knew Boaz's reputation and trusted he would not let the sun go down before settling this serious matter.

**B. James 4:13-17**

Knowing what to do and not doing it is sinful. This includes inappropriate delays.

**V. BOAZ LIVED UPRIGHTLY IN A PERVERSE SOCIETY.**

**A. Ruth 1:1; Judges 21:25**

The book of Ruth is set in the time of the judges, but that was not a consistently moral period in Israel's history. Despite the culture surrounding him, Boaz did right.

**B. Philippians 2:15**

Christians are called to behave properly despite the worldly ways of those around us.