

're-thinking' some of the parables ... No.12/4 of 11

'IT'S JUST PAST MIDNIGHT' parable - Part 4

FAITH-FULL-NESS ... Ruth 3:8

Ruth 3:8 *And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid and turned himself; and behold a woman lay at his feet, (9) And he said, 'Who are you?'*

Have you ever felt alone and surrounded by unfamiliar situations? Maybe with just one friend who can be trusted to be 'for you' and whom you can 'bounce' things off? Are you blessed with just one friend who will listen to you and then encourage you? You are in good company for Ruth was in such a position and the Lord led her to a new day in her life and it started at midnight. She was not aware of all the details and what each step would lead to, but she didn't look back because her confidence was in her Lord.

Ruth was teachable and thus she found grace (verse 10) . . . unmerited favour that could not be bought or worked for. The report of this vessel is a parable and thus an example to us today. The word of the Lord came to her through Naomi who represents a willing channel for God's word to flow through. Ruth heard the word, believed the word and did that which she was enabled by the Lord to believe. God had spoken and that word was settled in her mind.

The word to her was '*Go lay at the feet of Boaz*'. Boaz means strength and He represents Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom. Boaz also was the name of one of the two pillars in Solomon's Temple. Thus he represents the reward of the overcomers of Revelation 3:12. Ruth went and laid at the feet of Boaz. She went and specifically identified herself with the walk of He that was stronger than she. She lined herself up with He that would be her supply. To do this, she had to be willing to lay aside her reputation and be willing to become an outcast to those around her who did not know the word of the Lord that she had received. It was a walk of faith; completely trusting the Lord whom she served Christians at large so often ostracize those who have heard a different word from the Lord. How many times have you tried to share what God is revealing to you with those who just can't (or won't) hear? It is sometimes a 'battle' to which we almost succumb, that of compromising our call in this hour.

She went quietly to him, uncovered his feet and laid down. Obedience brings a supernatural rest. At **midnight** he stirred and was aware of her presence, the expression of her desire. Ruth, like Samson, was wide awake yet not moving. His was the next move and she was prepared to wait as long as it took to hear His next word. What would He say? What would He do?

She didn't have to wait long. Where we have completed 'step one', the Lord will not keep us dangling but will always be faithful in giving us the next step. The Lord is aware of our unbiased desire to please Him. '*Without faith it is impossible to please Him*'. We, in this midnight hour like Ruth, have a 100% confidence that our times are in His hand. Her faithfulness was rewarded. Boaz, a picture of Christ, blessed her and thus she was further assured that He was 'for' her. He also gave her the desire of her heart for she was a virtuous woman. That desire led to eventually being one with Him . . . a bride without spot or wrinkle.

Ruth was not pressured about being 'under a covering' of man or man's order; she knew that the Lord's

voice and will were her true covering. His garment therefore covered her. She knew it to be so as to her it was a garment of praise . . . a covering that actually came forth from within her. Ruth had faith in the grace of God trusting him fully to do what he had said he would do. This is the hour that we find ourselves moving with that same confidence. We know that the Lord has truly covered us — spirit, mind and body . . . for *we are dead and our life is hid with Christ in God*. Our thinking has been covered by His and we will never be the same again!