BIBLE STUDY 3/14/13

ACT 2

In the Barley Fields

**Narrator:** So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied. And her mother-in-law spoke to her.

**Naomi**: Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you.

**Narrator**: So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked.

**Ruth**: The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz.

**Naomi** : May he be blessed by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead! The man is a close relative of ours, one of our kinsmen redeemers.

**Ruth the Moabite**: Besides, he said to me, “You shall keep close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.”

**Naomi:** It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted.

**Narrator**: So she kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

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Act 3

At the Threshing Floor

**Naomi**: My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you? Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you were? See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. But when he lies down, observe the place where he lies. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do.

**Ruth**: All that you say I will do.

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**Narrator**: So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her. And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down. At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet!

**Boaz**: Who are you?

**Ruth:** I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a kinsman redeemer.

**Boaz**: May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman. And now it is true that I am a kinsman redeemer. Yet there is a kinsman redeemer nearer than I. Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, as the LORD lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning.

**Narrator**: So she lay at his feet until the morning, but arose before one could recognize another.

**Boaz:** Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor. Bring the garment you are wearing and hold it out.

**Narrator**: So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley and put it on her. Then she went into the city.

LEVIRATE MARRIAGE

A PRACTICE WHEREBY A MAN WAS OBLIGATED TO MARRY A CHILDLESS WIDOW OF HIS BROTHER IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE NAME AND MEMORY OF HIS DECEASED BROTHER AND TO ENSURE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HIS DECEASED BROTHER’S PROPERTY INHERITANCE WITHIN THE FAMILY LINE.

Lot

(After the destruction of Sodom) Lot settled in a cave, he and his two daughters. Now the firstborn said to the younger: Our father is old, and there is no man in the land to come in to us as befits the way of all the earth! Let us have our father drink wine and lie with him so that we may keep seed alive by our father. So they had their father drink wine that night, then the firstborn went in and lay with her father—but he knew nothing of her lying down or her rising up. On the morrow that the firstborn said to the younger: Here, yesternight I lay with father. Let us have him drink wine tonight as well, then you go in and lie with him, so that we may keep seed alive by our father. They had their father drink wine that night as well, but he knew nothing of her lying down or her rising up. And Lot’s two daughters became pregnant by their father. The firstborn bore a son and called his name: Moab. He is the father of Moab of today. The younger also bore a son, and called his name: BenAmmi, he is the father of the Ammonites.

Boaz

(After the famine) So Ruth went down to the threshing floor… When Boaz had eaten and drunk and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came secretly, and uncovered his feet and lay down. It happened in the middle of the night that the man was startled and bent forward; and behold, a woman was lying at his feet. He said, “Who are you?” And she answered, “I am Ruth your maid. So spread your covering (wing) over your maid, for you are a kinsman redeemer.” Then he said, “May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first…Now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you whatever you ask, …Now it is true I am a kinsman redeemer; however, there is a kinsman redeemer closer than I. Remain this night, and when morning comes, if he will redeem you, let him redeem you. But if he does not wish to redeem you, then I will redeem you, as the LORD lives. Lie down until morning.” So she lay at his feet until morning…; and he said, “Let it not be known the woman came to the threshing floor.”

Noah Lot Ruth

Genesis 9:20-25

(After the Flood)

Now Noah was a man of the ground; he planted a vineyard. 21 When he drank from the wine, he became drunk and uncovered himself in the middle of his tent. 22 Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father’s nakedness and told his two brothers outside. 23 Then Shem and Jepheth took a cloak, they put it on the shoulders of the two of them, and walked backward, to cover their father’s nakedness. Their faces were turned backward, their father’s nakedness they did not see. 24 Now when Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him. 25 He said: Cursed be Canaan, servant of servants may he be to his brothers!

Genesis 19:30-38

(After the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah)

Lot went up from Zoar and settled in the hill-country, his two daughters with him, for he was afraid to settle in Zoar. So he settled in a cave, he and his two daughters. 31 Now the firstborn said to the youngest: Our father is old, and there is no man in the land to come in to us as befits the way of all the earth! 32 Come, let us have our father drink wine and lie with him so that we may keep seed alive by our father. 33 So they had their father drink wine that night, then the firstborn went in and lay with her father—but he knew nothing of her lying down or her rising up. 34 It was on the morrow that the firstborn said to the youngest: Here, yesternight I lay with father. Let us have him drink wine tonight as well, then you go in and lie with him, so that we may keep seed alive by our father. 35 They had their father drink wine that night as well, then the youngest arose and lay with him, but he knew nothing of her lying down or her rising.

Ruth 3:6-11

(After a famine)

So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her. **7**And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down.**8**At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet!**9**He said, “Who are you?” And she answered, “I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wingsover your servant, for you are a redeemer.”  **10**And he said, “May you be blessed by the Lord, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. **11**And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman.

**18**Now the sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem and Ham and Japheth; and Ham was the father of Canaan. **19**These three *were* the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated. **20**Then Noah began farming and planted a vineyard. **21**He drank of the wine and became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent. **22**Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. **23**But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it upon both their shoulders and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were turned away, so that they did not see their father’s nakedness.**24**When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him. **25**So he said, “Cursed be Canaan;  
A servant of servants  
He shall be to his brothers.” **26**He also said, “Blessed be the Lord,  
The God of Shem;  
And let Canaan be his servant.  
**27**“May God enlarge Japheth,  
And let him dwell in the tents of Shem;  
And let Canaan be his servant.” **10**Now these are *the records of* the generations of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah; and sons were born to them after the flood. **6**The sons of Ham *were* Cush (Ethiopia) and Mizraim (Egypt) and Put and Canaan.

**15**Canaan became the father of Sidon, his firstborn, and Heth **16**and the Jebusite and the Amorite and the Girgashite **17**and the Hivite and the Arkite and the Sinite **18**and the Arvadite and the Zemarite and the Hamathite; and afterward the families of the Canaanite were spread abroad. **19**The territory of the Canaanite extended from Sidon as you go toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; as you go toward **Sodom and Gomorrah** and Admah and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.**20**These are the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, by their lands, by their nations.

**Lev. 20:17**‘If *there is* a man who takes his sister, his father’s daughter or his mother’s daughter, so that he **sees her nakedness** and she **sees his nakedness**, it is a disgrace; and they shall be cut off in the sight of the sons of their people. He has **uncovered his sister’s nakedness**.’

EQUATING “SEEING NAKEDNESS” AND “UNCOVERING NAKEDNESS,” WHICH IS A SEXUAL ACT, ACCORDING TO LEVITICUS 18.