



Like Gravity and Wind
“Behold, the Redeemer” Series
Ruth 3:1-5, page 223
September 13, 2020
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God explains in more detail the nature of providence and a proper relation to it.

The Text: Ruth 3:1-5

¹ Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you? ² Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you were? See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. ³ 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. ⁴ 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.” ⁵ And she replied, “All that you say I will do.”

- 1) This section of Ruth story has caused great confusion and discussion (vv. 1-5).

- 2) This passage allows us to glean several truths about living under the providence of God:
 - a) *The doctrine of providence teaches us that God works without telling us exactly how, when, or why.*

 - b) *God’s providence cannot be controlled, manipulated, or determined.*

 - c) *God’s providence works in both special and common ways.*

 - d) *Rather than giving us permission to take risks, the doctrine of providence teaches us to respect God’s character and commands.*

 - e) *God’s providence is like wind, which cannot be created or contained but moves great ships in which we sit.*

Response

Lord, help me to live under your ever-present power, and to trust and submit to your perfect purposes.

Sunday Text Questions for Ruth 3:1-5 (“Ruth” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: What is the biggest risk you have ever taken?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) What does Naomi’s rhetorical question in v. 1 suggest about her love and care for Ruth (hint: “rest” means something like “taken care of” or “provided for”)?
- 4) What does v. 2 reveal about what Naomi is thinking and strategizing regarding Boaz?
- 5) What, exactly was Naomi’s plan for Ruth, based upon vv. 3-4?
- 6) What are some of the strengths of her plan, and what might be some concerns?
- 7) Interpreters have long wrestled with the meaning of the phrase, “uncover his feet and lie down” (v. 4), thinking it is an expression of something sexual. How might the larger context suggest the action was not sexual in nature?
- 8) Was Naomi wrong to assume that God’s earlier favor (in the fields) expressed through Boaz would be extended even further (in marriage)?
- 9) In what ways can Christians inappropriately make assumptions about what God is doing or what God should do for us?
- 10) What has the book of Ruth taught you thus far about the doctrine of providence and its importance for the Christian life?

Further study this week: Passages on the doctrine of providence: Proverbs 16:9, 33 (Mon); Romans 8:28 (Tues); Matthew 6:25-34 (Wed); Psalm 139:13-16 (Thurs); Proverbs 21:1 (Fri).