



FAITHFUL PROMISE

Love is Patient

Ruth 3:1-18

“...hunches about what God is doing should not be turned into schemes by which we engineer circumstances in order to bring those purposes to pass in an accelerated way. Naomi recognizes what God might be doing; but she does not submit herself to the principle that God’s purposes are to be fulfilled in God’s ways and at God’s time.” – Sinclair Ferguson

Q: What do we do when it’s hard to wait?

A: We move forward, acting in faithfulness and growing in patience.

Love is Patient

1. The Plan (vv. 1-5).

Scent...Secrecy...Situation

2. The Encounter (vv. 6-15).

Startling...Supplicatory...Steadfast

3. The Return (vv. 16-18).

Suspense...Supply...Surety

Love is Patient

1. The Plan (vv. 1-5).

- a) *Scent – “wash therefore and anoint yourself...”*
- b) *Secrecy – “put on your cloak, do not make yourself known.”*
- c) *Situation – “when he has finished eating...and lies down...go and uncover his feet.”*

“...the LORD has led me in the way...” (Genesis 24:27)

“The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.” (Pro. 16:9)

Love is Patient

2. The Encounter (vv. 6-15).

- a) *Startling* – “at midnight the man was startled and turned over...”
- b) *Supplicatory* – “Spread your wings over your servant...”
- c) *Steadfast* – “your last kindness is greater than the first...”

“Boaz is shown quietly handling the situation like a gentleman, and not either as an old fool or a village lout. He may be countrified but he has dignity and restraint.” –
D.B. Macdonald

Love is Patient

3. The Return (vv. 16-18).

- a) *Suspense* – “How did you fare, my daughter?”
- b) *Supply* – “You must not go back empty handed...”
- c) *Surety* – “Wait...until you learn how the matter turns out...”

“Boaz is sending a signal to Naomi that he understands. He is saying, ‘I understand the need and I understand the panic. I understand why you did this. I don’t approve. But my heart is open to you in grace, and this is a little message to you. Trust in the provision that God will supply.’” – Sinclair Ferguson

Q: What do we do when it's hard to wait?

A: We move forward, acting in faithfulness and growing in patience.

While we are waiting, remember...

- 1. We've been washed by his blood.*
- 2. We've been anointed by his Holy Spirit.*
- 3. We're covered under the shelter of his wings.*
- 4. He invites us to abide at his feet.*
- 5. He has supplied abundant provision.*
- 6. His return is sure.*

