

Where's Your Chair?

Ruth 3 1-9



How abundant is your goodness, O Lord,
which you have laid up for those who fear you;
which you have prepared in the sight of all,
for those who put their trust in you. Psalm 31:19

Praising:

Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour
glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it thy holy flame
bestowing.

Reading:

Ruth 3:1-9
Naomi unveils her plan to Ruth

When Ruth was first bereaved, Naomi made it plain that she wanted her daughter-in-law to meet someone else and be happy. Naomi's plan now proves not just that she has one eye on Ruth's long-term welfare, but that she has a man in mind to secure it. Having first come to the field of Boaz looking for food, Ruth returns at Naomi's behest looking

for a spouse. Culturally speaking, the late night conversation and what accompanies it on the threshing floor are far more subtle and seemingly than they might first appear! Boaz has looked favourably upon Ruth once before. When he finds her lying at his feet, he may not instantly recognise her, but the full import of Ruth's reply will be clear to him: to spread a cloak over a woman meant to marry her!

Listening:

Praying:

We acknowledge before you Lord, our need for loving relationships

- for friends we can trust, whose company we can enjoy, who carry burdens we can share
- for the ones who remember us, whose kindness lifts our spirits, who never leave us out
- for those we can care for, whose lives seem quiet, who sometimes feel forgotten

Father: help me to value the love you supply in those around me, for where there should have been devotion, all Christ knew was fair-weather friendship, empty loyalty and betrayal. Amen

Doing:

Friday, 11 March 2016