

Where's Your Chair?

Ruth 4 1-6



I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope.
Psalm 130:4

Praising:

Loving shepherd ever near,
teach your lamb your voice to
hear;
let my footsteps never stray
from the straight and narrow way.

Reading:

Ruth 4:1-6
Boaz, the next-of-kin and the
elders

Boaz assembles a formal
community hearing to settle the
'prior claim'. The town gate is the
traditional venue for such
meetings and once the unnamed
next-of-kin is present, Boaz
gathers the elders. These would
have been the leading and
influential men of the district who
interpreted Israelite law and
settled disputes. Boaz presents
the facts in straightforward terms.
Because Ruth is still young

enough to have children, any son
she might bear would be
considered a child and heir of her
late husband Elimilech. So far as
Elimilech's property is concerned,
this would complicate matters for
the heirs of the next-of-kin. The
basic upshot of proceedings is
that the next-of-kin renounces his
claims on the property and
household of Ruth's late
husband. Throughout all this,
Boaz is proving himself a model
of faithful commitment to the God
of Israel!

Listening:

Praying:

Lord we pray for humility to hear
and obey you

- to trust that you long to see us
thrive and flourish as we follow
your way
- to seek spiritual counsel
before we make serious
decisions and then to heed it
- to put your loving will and
purpose before our own
personal whims and yearnings

Father: save me from myself, that
when the impulse to act
immediately takes hold, I would
feel your restraining hand to
stand back, to take stock and to
wait on your Spirit. Amen

Doing:

Tuesday, 15 March 2016