

Where's Your Chair?

Ruth 4 7-12



My soul waits for the Lord, more than the night watch for the morning,
more than the night watch for the morning.
Psalm 130:5

Praising:

Where you lead me I will go,
walking in your steps below;
till, before my Father's throne,
I shall know as I am known.

Reading:

Ruth 4:7-12
Boaz and Ruth will marry

Rather than have to pronounce on Boaz's case, the next-of-kin's intervention turns the elders instead into a body of witnesses. A crowd has now gathered and so Boaz calls on everyone present to confirm that they have heard the next-of-kin renounce his claims and seen him take off his sandal and give it to Boaz in the traditional Israelite way. The understanding is thus signed and sealed. Although the procedure Boaz follows does not match Deuteronomy 25's provisions to

the letter, it seems likely that the way of handling such situations changed over time and differed regionally as well. What is more striking, is the generous and visionary way the witnesses affirm Boaz: they call on God to bless Ruth with children and they pray that she will honour Bethlehem as women like Rachel and Leah before her honoured Israel.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord help us to see our role in your plan for the world

- to recognise that you call us to perform a specific purpose at a specific time
- to feel we are advancing your kingdom by our every day routines and responsibilities
- to know where we fit in your sequence, that as we followed others, others will follow us

Father: you call me to seize my opportunity and to play my spiritual part for you. But remind me as I do so that I am only a link in a chain, that someone else will take their turn after me. Amen

Doing:

Wednesday, 16 March 2016