

Chapter 3

Ruth instructed by her mother in law fleepeth at Booz feete, 8. and signifying that she perteyneth to him by the law of affinitie, receiueth a good answer, 14. and fix meafures of barley.

But after that she was returned to her mother in law, she heard of her: My daughter, I wil feeke thee reft, and wil prouide that it may be wel with thee. ² This Booz, to whose maides thou art ioyned in the field, is our nigh kinfman, and this night he ynoweth the barne floore of the barley. ³ Wash therefore and annoynte thy felf, and put on thy better garmentes, and goe downe into the barne floore, let no man fee thee, til he shal haue ended eating & drinking. ⁴ And when he shal goe to fleepe, marke the place wherein he fleepeth: and thou shalt come, and difcouer the mantel wherwith he is couered toward his feete, and shal caft thy felf downe and lie there: ^a)and he wil tel thee what thou muft doe. ⁵ Who answered: Whatfoeuer thou shalt command, that wil I doe. ⁶ And she went downe into the barne floore, and did al the thinges which her mother in law had commanded her. ⁷ And when Booz had eaten, & drunken, and was made pleafant, and was gone to fleepe by the heape of sheaues, she came clofely, and difcouering the mantel, at his feete, layd her felf downe. ⁸ And behold, when it was now midnight the man was afraid, and trubled: and he faw a woman lying at his feete, ⁹ and faid to her: Who art thou? And she answered: I am Ruth thy handmaide: fpred thy mantel vpon thy feruant, because thou art nigh of kinne. ¹⁰ And he faid: Bleffed art thou of our Lord my daughter, and the former mercie thou haft paffed with the later: because thou haft

^a The euent fhewed that Noemi was infpired by God to geue fuch direction to Ruth, & to foretel what Booz would doe.

a)not folowed yong men either poore or rich. ¹¹ Feare not therefore, but whatfoeuer thou shalt fay to me, I wil doe to thee. For al the people that dwelleth within the gates of my citie, knowe, that thou art a woman of vertue. ¹² Neither doe I denie my felf nigh of kinne, but there is an other neerer then I. ¹³ Reft this night: and when morning is come, if he wil retayne thee by the right of nigh of kindred, the thing is wel done, but if he wil not, I wil take thee without al doubt, our Lord liueth, fleepe vntil morning. ¹⁴ She flept therefore at his feete til the night was gone. Therefore she arofe before men could know one an other, and Booz faid: Beware left any man know that thou cameft hither. ¹⁵ And agayne: Spred, quoth he, thy mantel, wherwith thou art couered, and hold it with both handes. Who fpredding and holding it, he meafured fix meafures of barley, and put it vpon her. Who carying it entred into the citie, ¹⁶ and came to her mother in law. Who faid to her: What haft thou done daughter? And she told her al thinges, that the man had done to her. ¹⁷ And she faid: Behold fix meafures of barley hath he geuen me, and he faid: I wil not haue thee returne emptie to thy mother in law. ¹⁸ And Noemi faid: Expect daughter til we fee what end the thing wil haue. For the man wil not ceafe vntil he haue accomplished that which he hath fpoken.

^a It was very cōmendable that fhe loued her firft hufband and mother in law: but more vertue in fleing occafion of finne with young men, and feeking to marie according to the law of God with her former hufbandes kinfman. *Deut. 25.*