

1. Opening Prayer
2. Threshing Floor in the Bible

Place of Offering (Numbers 15:20, 18:27, 30, and Deuteronomy 15:14)

Place of Asking for God's will (Judges 6:37)

Place of Funeral (Genesis 50:10)

Place of Carnival (Ruth 3:3, Hosea 9:1)

⇒ Can you find something happened in common in the threshing floor?

3. A Literary Function: The Activities of The Carnival Square

Collective ridicule of officialdom, inversion of hierarchy, violations of decorum, celebration of bodily excess and so on embody, for Mikhail Bakhtin (1895-1795), an implicit popular conception of the world. This conception is not, however, able to become ideologically elaborated until the radical laughter of the square entered into the “world of great literature.”

– Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy (<https://www.iep.utm.edu/bakhtin/#H5>)

4. Read Ruth 3

5. Questions

- a. Naomi's first admonishment to Ruth in chapter one failed, but here her second admonishment to Ruth worked. Why?
- b. Why do you think Ruth's action in the threshing floor made Boaz promise to take care of Ruth as a kinsman redeemer?
- c. In verse 9, when Boaz asked, “who are you?” Ruth answered “your servant.” Why do you think her answer is different from Ruth 2:13?

- d. Boaz said, “You have not run after the younger men.” (v. 10) What does that mean? Read Genesis 24:5,8,39 and 1 Samuel 25:42.
- e. Boaz also said in verse 10, “This kindness (*chesed*) is greater than earlier.” What sort of kindness does he talk about?
- f. In verse 11 Boaz says that Ruth is a woman of noble character (*chayil*). Who else in this book was described as the noble character?
- g. Back home with barley, Ruth said, “He gave me this barley, saying, “Don't go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.' What would ‘empty-handed’ symbolize? Read Ruth 1:21.
- h. The meeting of Ruth and Boaz, in which he promised to work for her as a kinsman redeemer, happened in the dark hours (vv. 8, 13, and 14). How shall we understand in regard with God’s redeeming work for us?

6. Closing Prayer