



YOU HAVE MADE THE LAST KINDNESS GREATER THAN THE FIRST
RUTH 3:10-18

Noami's spiritual and emotional healing have already begun;

2 CORINTHIANS 1:4

⁴ [God] comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Hesed: the lovingkindness shown by God to His people, and the resulting lovingkindness God's people show to one another;

EXODUS 15:13

¹³ "You have led in your *steadfast love* the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

EXODUS 20:6

⁶ ...but showing *steadfast love* to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

EXODUS 34:6

⁶ The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in *steadfast love* and faithfulness.

NUMBERS 14:18

¹⁸ The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in *steadfast love*, forgiving iniquity and transgression...

1 SAMUEL 20:14

¹⁴ ...show me the *steadfast love* of the LORD, that I may not die;

2 SAMUEL 2:5

⁵ David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead and said to them, "May you be blessed by the LORD, because you showed this *loyalty* to Saul your lord and buried him.

2 SAMUEL 9:7

⁷ And David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will show you *kindness* for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always."

JOB 6:14

¹⁴ "He who withholds *kindness* from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty."

<i>'Hesed'</i> as demonstrated by the three characters of Ruth		
Naomi (<i>People of God</i>)	Ruth (<i>People of God</i>)	Boaz (<i>God the Son</i>)
Greater concern for Ruth than for herself	Greater concern for Naomi than herself	Tremendous kindness and affection showed to the vulnerable
Patience, a firm resolve that the redeemer will do what is right	Patience, a firm resolve that the redeemer will do what is right	Lives all of his life with the present reality of the Living God
	Life characterized by obedience and trust	Displays a strong protection of the weak and vulnerable
	A desire to live in submission to the loving authority of the redeemer	Unassailable virtue and moral worthiness
	A solid reputation of virtue among outsiders	One whose role it is to redeem the unfortunate outcast
		Displays immediate willingness to pay the price of redemption

For the Christian, abstaining from evil is not the only concern;

1 THESSALONIANS 5:22 (KJV)

²²Abstain from all *appearance of evil*.

1 CORINTHIANS 8:9–12

⁹ But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹ And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹² Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

1 TIMOTHY 3:7

⁷ Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

The protection of one's reputation;

PROVERBS 22:1

¹A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.

Christ will not needlessly delay His redemption;

2 PETER 3:9

⁹ *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise* as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

A startling parallel;

GENESIS 19:30–38

³⁰Now Lot went up out of Zoar and lived in the hills with his two daughters, for he was afraid to live in Zoar. So he lived in a cave with his two daughters. ³¹And the firstborn said to the younger, “Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come in to us after the manner of all the earth. ³²Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve offspring from our father.” ³³So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father. He did not know when she lay down or when she arose...³⁷The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab. He is the father of the Moabites to this day.

The glorious promise of new-ness;

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

REVELATION 21:5

⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new”...

“Is everything sad going to come untrue?”

—Sam Gamgee to Gandalf, *The Lord of the Rings*

“[Some mortals] say of some temporal suffering, “No future bliss can make up for it,” not knowing that Heaven, once attained, *will work backwards and turn even that agony into a glory.*”

—C. S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*, chapter 9, emphasis added

LUKE 1:25

²⁵ “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, *to take away my reproach among people.*”

Comparing Genesis 19 and Ruth 3	
<i>Parallels</i>	<i>Distinctions</i>
Two women displaced from their home following a disaster	Sodom was God's judgment upon a sinful Gentile people. The famine/deaths were God's disciplining of His people and an important part of God's redemption story
Their involvement in the disaster was due to the sinful place in which they formerly lived	Lot and his daughters left Sodom after being forced. Ruth lovingly and willingly left Moab for Naomi
Two women scheming to preserve their family line, and they both agree to the plan	The plan of Lot's daughters was grotesquely sinful, the plan of Naomi was honorable and righteous
The 'plan' takes place at night	The night "conceals" the sin of Lot's daughters. The night provides privacy and discretion for Ruth
Wine is consumed by the man/father, who is now asleep	Lot is expressly described as "drunk." Boaz is described as "merry."
Both women "lie" with the man	The daughters of Lot "lie" in a sexual manner, Ruth "lies" as a sign of covenant submission
Each episode involves a covering/uncovering	Lot's daughters uncover his nakedness Ruth asks Boaz to cover her with his wing/garment
The women/woman leave(s) with 'seed'	Lot's daughters sinfully acquire the seed of a child, Ruth acquires the seed of a promise
The child of both women will become the "father" of a people	The child of Lot's daughter "fathers" the Moabite people, the grandchild of Ruth becomes Israel's greatest king, "father" of the Messiah, and a forerunner of the Christ