

"The Book of Ruth Dating Service"
A biblical plan for finding a mate?
By John Cospers

The love story of Ruth (Ruth 3-4) is somewhat shocking to our modern, conservative Christian outlook. Suppose your pastor told your daughter to sneak into the house of the boy they loved, lay at the foot of his bed, and ask him to cover her with his blanket. How many fathers would want a word with the pastor after church? And how many of those Dads would be packing heat?

Ruth's story is indeed different, but she isn't the only person in the Bible with an unusual love story. Isaac's bride was chosen by his father's servant, who asked the Lord to reveal the right woman by whether or not she offered to water his camels (Genesis 24). Isaac's son Jacob had an even more bizarre story (Genesis 29:14-30). After working seven years to marry his true love Rachel, he awoke the morning after his wedding to discover he had married her sister Leah! He was then allowed to marry Rachel in exchange for another seven years of servitude. Today, Jacob and his family would be a shoe in for a reality show.

It's important to keep these stories in mind when searching the Bible for wisdom on how to find the right person to marry. The frustrating truth of the matter is that God never laid out any set formula. We are left to rely on God's guidance and our own discernment to choose the right person. Is it any wonder so many people give up, or give up control to a website? (E-harmony, anyone?)

Still, God promises us in his word that he knows the desires of our hearts and he will give us what we need. What's more, God promises that when we seek after him, he will give us his best (Matthew 7:7-12).

So while there's no clear, simple formula for finding a mate, we can take comfort in the fact that God is the author of our love stories. For some it comes easy. For some, it comes hard. For everyone, it comes in the way God made for our benefit and his glory.

© Copyright 2009 Righteous Insanity
www.righteousinsanity.com