

the feet of Jesus in token of submission, pleading the promise in *John* vi. 37, then they also shall receive six measures of barley from his hand (verse 15).

When a man is aroused from the sleep of death, and sees sin in some degree as God sees it, it will indeed make him afraid and tremble; it will be a time of midnight to his soul, of terror and anguish, more or less, according as God allows. It is *conviction* of sin. So when the antitype of Boaz, Christ, appears to such a soul in the midnight of his distress, asking, "Who art thou?" and receives the prayer of "spread thy skirt over me, for thou art a near kinsman" (or redeemer), from the poor terrorstricken soul, then comes the answer of blessing, as in *verse* 11—or *conversion*.

The request of Ruth to Boaz to spread his skirt over her, was tantamount to saying—make me thy wife. It was a custom at the time of marriage, among Jews, for the man to throw the skirt of his robe over his intended wife, and cover her head with it: it was a time of love, as so beautifully expressed in *Ezekiel* xvi. 8.

There was no impropriety in Ruth saying this (see the duty of next kinsman in *Deuteronomy* xxv. 5-7), but she is commended for it by Boaz. Her "kindness" was shown in the beginning by her leaving her people, country, and relatives, to follow Naomi in her affliction; and in the latter end, by seeking her kinsman, who, by the law of Israel, was her proper 'redeemer', rather than the young men, who were naturally more suitable to her own youthfulness and inclinations. This obedience to the law