

Ruth Chapter 2

- Naomi and Ruth have just arrived at Bethlehem-Judah: The house of bread and the place of praise.
 - They've arrived at the time of the barley harvest; late March or early April – at the time of the Passover.
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V: 1 Naomi has a rich relative, a “kinsman” of her husband – Boaz, which means “Lively” or “In Him is strength” – sounds much better than “Sickly” or “Scrawny”.

- The Hebrew word for “kinsman” is “goel” – Jesus the “Son of Man” is our “goel”, our Kinsman Redeemer.
- Leviticus 25 describes the year of Jubilee, the year of release that takes place every 50 years where land and possessions revert back to their original owners.
- 50 years is a long time though, and there was an interim plan that allowed for a kinsmen to redeem property lost through financial issues, or even if it was sold or given away – a kinsmen could redeem it by paying the redemption price.

V: 2-3 As they arrive, Ruth volunteers to go into the fields to glean some grain that they might be able to eat and survive.

- Leviticus 19 & Deuteronomy 24 describe the gleaning welfare system.

Deuteronomy 24:19-21 ¹⁹When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: that the Lord thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hands. ²⁰When thou beatest thine olive tree, thou shalt not go over the boughs again: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow. ²¹When thou gatherest the grapes of thy vineyard, thou shalt not glean it afterward: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow.”

- Not waiting for a hand out or charity she's willing to work.
- There was no “welfare” system as we know it.

Paul commends this:

2 Thessalonians 3:10 “For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.”

- This is also a tacit admission that they are poor; that they have no other recourse.

Jesus said:

Matthew 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

- It just so happens that she ends up in a field that belongs to Boaz, a kinsman of Elimelech. God guides us in very natural ways.

Psalm 37:23 “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and He delighteth in his way.”

V: 4 All that we know at this point about Boaz is that he is “a mighty man of wealth”, that he owns property, and he’s a kinsman to Elimelech.

- His first recorded words are a blessing: “The Lord be with you...” He’s a man that is conscious of God and seeks to bless his servants.
- He’s willing to walk among the workers and talk with them.

Our Goel does the same thing!

Isaiah 7:14 “... and shall call His name Immanuel.” Which means God with us.

- The workers in turn invoke a blessing upon Boaz.

V: 5-7 Boaz takes note of Ruth and asks about her. She had asked permission to glean in the field and has worked from the morning up until that point.

- Ruth is both respectful of other’s property and an industrious hardworking woman. Basically she’s a good witness.

Colossians 3:23 “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.”

V: 8-9 Then said Boaz... Boaz takes the initiative. Ruth has no expectation, she’s an alien, a poor and vulnerable widow.

- Grace means that God makes the first move to come to our aid, not because we deserve anything, but because He love us and wants us for Himself.

1 John 4:19 “We love Him, because He first loved us.”

- Boaz, the Lord of the harvest then speaks directly to Ruth:
- “... *my daughter*...” This speaks to relationship – and because there is a relationship he says...

1. Don’t go into another man’s field. **John 8:31-32**
2. Stay with my maidens. **John 15:5**
3. Keep your eye on my field, and follow my servants. **John 10:27**

John 10:27 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

- The master instructed the young men, knowing that both they and the maidens would be vulnerable:

1 Corinthians 7:1 “Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: it is good for a man not to touch a woman.”

- Boaz extends his protection to Ruth, she is covered and protected and she can drink from the water which his servants have drawn.

Isaiah 12:3 “Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.”

Isaiah 55:1 “Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.”

Jesus says:

John 7:37 “... if any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink.”

- Essentially her needs are being met and she is being shown great favor.
- She had said your God will be my God, she'd made a commitment to the true and living God – she's walking by faith, trusting in Him and He's blessing her!

V: 10-12 Her behavior and character have been noted very favorably.

- This is an answer to prayer: V: 2 Ruth went out looking for grace and she found it.
- Why have I found grace in your eyes Lord? She asks the question for all of us who've come to the conclusion that we don't deserve the least of God's mercy and blessings upon our lives – it is a wonderful mystery.

Romans 5:8 “But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

- His response: “I know all about you...” – which just makes it all the more miraculous!

Romans 8:29 “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

V: 13-16 As she expresses her gratitude, she continues to be blessed:

- We were all once strangers, alienated from God – but through our kinsmen redeemer we are invited to His table.

1. She's invited to eat with the other servants.

- The redeemer asks his gentile bride to sit at his table and partake of **bread** and **vinegar**, a picture of bread & wine: the communion table.
- V: 14 The Lord of the harvest personally serves her!

Matthew 20:28 “Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

- Our redeemer invites us to His communion table, his banqueting table.

Song 2:4 “He brought me to the banqueting house, and His banner over me was love.”

2. She's allowed to glean among the harvested crops.

3. The hired servants are to intentionally drop some of the grain so she can pick it up and keep it.

- Testimony: Walking with Grace, little kids and quarters on the ground: God rejoicing to bless us.
- Our Redeemer wants to bless us more than we can ask or think.

V: 17 She worked as long as she could to maximize her own harvest.

Jesus said:

John 9:4 “I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

- At the end of the day she had quite a haul, about a bushel of barley – pretty good for gleanings.
- This is also another fulfillment of God's word:

Deuteronomy 10:18 “He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, (He defends their cause) and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment.”

V: 18 Ruth showed Naomi what she had gleaned, and also gave her some of the bread from her lunch which she had held back.

Ephesians 3:20 “No to Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.”

V: 19-20 Naomi is last seen expressing her bitterness to the women of Bethlehem; when Ruth asked permission to go and glean from the fields, there was no encouragement, no direction on where to go – simply granting permission.

- Now she begins to pronounce a blessing upon their benefactor, and then again blessing the Lord! She's back to being Naomi (pleasant) vs: Mara / bitter.
- Naomi discovers that Ruth has been in Boaz's field, a near kinsmen to Naomi.
- Naomi has renewed hope for three reasons:
 1. Because of who Boaz is, he is a near kinsmen.
 2. Because of what he's said – expressing his love by ensuring her safety and provision.
 3. Because of his actions, what Boaz has done, he's shown an obvious interest in Ruth and has shown a desire to make her happy.
- We should have hope in Jesus for all the same reasons; because of who he is, and because of what he's done, and because of what He's said to us through His word.

2 Peter 1:4 “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

- Real hope is not just a shallow “hope so” feeling generated by optimistic fantasies.
- Hope is an inner sense of joyful assurance and confidence as we trust God's promises and face the future with His help.
- Norwegian Warf rats / control group 1-2 hours vs: 24 hours for those that had hope.

Romans 15:13 “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.”

- Just as their hope was set upon Boaz, our hope is fixed on Jesus.

Titus 2:13 “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”

V: 21-22 Boaz tells Ruth to stay close by until the harvest is complete, but not with the young men.

V: 8 “... abide here fast with my maidens:”

- Ruth demonstrates something that is true of the Bride of Christ, meaning all of us:

Isaiah 53:6 “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way;...”

- We are prone to going astray, it's in our nature:
- Naomi makes the needed correction: “*It is good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens...*”

Naomi steps into the office or ministry of an older woman instructing a younger woman:

Titus 2:3-4 “³The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; ⁴that they may teach the young women...”

Jesus tells us the same thing: He didn't say to just abide wherever...

John 15:5 “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing.”

- Naomi sees the hand of the Lord in this blessing and tells Ruth not to be seen in any other field and to stick close to Boaz's servants.

V: 23 Ruth is obedient! “... she kept fast by the maidens...”

Describing what is really beautiful:

1 Peter 3:3-4 “³Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; ⁴but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”

- Our redeemer describes this obedience as an act of love and devotion:

John 14:21 “He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him.”

- The barley harvest was right about the time of Passover, the wheat harvest was about 50 days after that.

Deut. 16 starts off describing the Passover, then:

Deuteronomy 16:9 “Seven weeks shalt thou number unto thee: begin to number the seven weeks from such time as thou beginnest to put the sickle to the corn / grain.”

- The barley harvest or the Passover, then to the wheat harvest or 49 days + 1 day takes them to Pentecost.
 - The bride toils in the field until Pentecost, then she toils no more.
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Notice the bigger picture: They've returned to Bethlehem the "house of bread" / God's word, they've come back to the place of praise / Judah – their basket is full and their future is bright!

- God used Ruth to turn Naomi's bitterness into gratitude, her unbelief into faith, and her despair into hope – all because one person trusted in the Lord and obeyed His will.

1 Corinthians 13:13 "And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

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Ref.Ruth.01