



## Ruth 2

In our study last week, we began reading one of the most delightful stories in the Bible. As we continue our journey through this book, we will see God's relentless love at work in the lives of two women—women who may have seemed insignificant in the eyes of their countrymen, but who brought rich blessing to the nation of Israel.

Before you delve into the homework this week, take about 5 minutes to read through Chapter 1 again. Let yourself be captured by the plight of this family. Imagine the emotional trauma that both of these women have faced. As you see the unexpected, improbable events occurring one after another, contemplate how our God has orchestrated all of these details to bring about the rescue of this family and also the progress of His plan of salvation for you and for me. God is at work in ways we cannot imagine.



1. **Read Ruth 2:1-7** *God has provided a Redeemer in the land of promise*
  - a. What things do you discover about Boaz in Ruth 2:1?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. There's no indication that either Ruth or Naomi had any long-term strategy for finding provision in the village of Bethlehem. What was Ruth's proposal for obtaining food for their survival?

God is gentle and merciful toward His people. He cares about the weak and the powerless, and this is reflected in the terms of His Covenant law with Israel. God specified in His Law that landowners were not to harvest their fields completely, but to leave the edges of the field for the poor to harvest. The outsiders, the marginalized, and the poor could follow along behind the harvesters and pick up the stalks of grain that were dropped. This was called gleaning. It was God's provision for the poor and needy.

- c. Ruth set out to find a field where she could glean. She had no prior knowledge of Bethlehem. How would you assess the probability that she would just “happen” upon this particular field owned by a close relative of her father-in-law Elimelech?
  
- d. God may seem hidden, but He is always at work in ways we cannot see—working to bring about His good purposes in our lives. On the day that Ruth came to glean, what providential events served to enable the meeting of Ruth and Boaz?

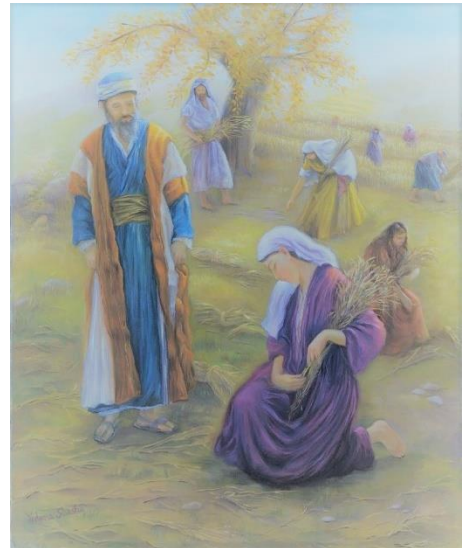
Bethlehem was a tiny village of about 200 people. Ruth was an immigrant from an enemy nation. When the people of Bethlehem looked at Ruth, they did not see her as Naomi's daughter-in-law; rather, she was “the Moabite” that Naomi had brought with her. Notice that in chapters 1 and 2, the people of Bethlehem always referred to her as “Ruth the Moabite.” She is a foreigner; she is an outsider. Ruth does not receive the attention that would be given to a native Israelite; she is simply not “one of them.”

2. Read Ruth 2:8-16 *Boaz offers provision and protection to Ruth*

a. How did Boaz indicate his acceptance of Ruth in his greeting to her?

b. The villagers are wary of Ruth; Boaz is not. What about Ruth has been impressive to Boaz? What did he admire in her that they overlooked?

c. As an unattached Moabite woman alone in the field, Ruth was at risk of being bullied, beaten, or sexually assaulted. Yet from that first day of gleaning, God provided protection for her through the guardianship of Boaz. How did Boaz provide safekeeping for Ruth? (Ruth 2:8-10)



d. Boaz looked beyond Ruth's immigrant status and saw the character and courage that motivated her actions. How did Boaz explicitly affirm and pray for Ruth in verses 11-12?

- e. What additional personal favor did Boaz provide? How did this elevate her status among the reapers? (Ruth 2:14-16)
  
- f. How does Ruth respond to the grace (favor) she receives from Boaz? (Ruth 2:10, 13)

3. Read Ruth 2:17-23 *Naomi recognizes the Kindness of God*

- a. When Naomi realized that Ruth had “just happened” to glean in the field of a close relative, what did she conclude about God’s work in this? What did she proclaim about God? (Ruth 2:20) How is this vastly different from her thinking in Ruth 1:20-21?

- b. ***For personal reflection:*** When God bestows unexpected grace in our lives, we often fail to see His hand in it.  
    *“We were lucky to get this job!”*  
    *“We were lucky that it didn’t freeze.”*

A wise man once said, “*Luck*’ is what a fool calls it when God gives him a gift.”

Have you ever mistaken the gifts of God as being luck? Have you ever given yourself credit for achievements that were more a result of God’s grace than your skills?

Keep in mind that God is always at work in ways we can’t imagine. He is behind the scenes, beside our path, and overseeing our way.



4. *Taking a second look: Notice the prayer of Boaz in Ruth 2:12*

- a. What picturesque image does Boaz use to describe Ruth's faith and trust in God as evidenced by her decision to come to Bethlehem?

- b. Read Psalm 36:7 and Psalm 57:1. What characteristic of God is illustrated by the symbolism of God's *wings*?



- c. *For Personal Reflection:* Have you come to see God as your tireless, ever-present protector? The God who sent Jesus to die for you will not fail to shelter you from everything that could *really* harm you. Pain, loss, and death are realities in this broken world, but Jesus has conquered both sin and death, and we are assured of eternal life with Him.

My prayer:

*Father, help me to trust you completely.  
I have taken shelter under Your wings.  
Enable me to take joy in You,  
and to rest in Your providential care for me.*