

**Last Msg** we focused on what “**True Repentance**” LOOKS LIKE

& I was **kinda HARD** on **NAOMI** in that Msg  
because, really, **her Repentance** was pretty ‘**half-hearted**’

**NAOMI** was certainly **NOT Returning to the Lord - ALL IN**, Wholehearted, & with a **Passion** for God

**THAT** was **RUTH** - who was **Returning** (or TURNING)  
to the Lord with that “**All In**” “**No Matter What**” commitment

**Unfortunately** - we spent **SO MUCH Time** on the  
**True Repentance** concept . . .

That we **didn't even** get to **finish** the text  
of these **two women** getting **back to Bethlehem**

So we **have** to **START THERE** this morning

& **that will lead** us right into the **Wonderful Truth**  
that **God does GUIDE** - & **God does PROVIDE**

**Let's Pray**

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We left **Ruth** & **Naomi** - **Walking in SILENCE**

**RUTH** had made that Amazing “**Commitment of Faith**” (v.16)  
& **followed** it up with a “**Till Death do we Part**” **Oath** to God

**& then - Ruth 1:18 says (esv)**

**18 And when Naomi saw that [Ruth] was determined to go with her, she said no more.**

**NAOMI** had been **TRYING** to talk **RUTH OUT** of **going back** to **Bethlehem** with her

& **maybe** we can understand **NAOMI'S 'Reluctance'** a little bit

**NAOMI** was a **PRODIGAL Returning** to her Heavenly **Father's house** . . . & **not only** was she **Returning** as a Prodigal

**But** she was **Bringing** a **FOREIGN Daughter in Law** with her that **she wasn't supposed** to have

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**& so - we pick it up today - in Ruth 1:19 (ESV)**

**19 So the two of them went on (in silence?) until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, "Is this Naomi?"**

These two **DUSTY Widows** come **Draggin** back into town & the **town women** are **jostling** & **whispering** to each other

**Is this NAOMI ??** She left **10 years ago** with a **full family**, & **Now**, she comes **dragging** back into town **ALONE**

But - **not quite alone** . . . **who is that with her?**

That **isn't family**, that **isn't even** an **Israelite** . . . wait a minute - **that's a MOABITE girl with her**

& **Moabites** were **DESPISED** by **Israel**

**Naomi KNEW that** - Which is **probably why**  
she was **trying** to **talk RUTH out** of coming with her

**& Ruth KNEW that** - But her **commitment** & her **faith**  
**drove her** to **God**, & to **God's people** - in **spite** of them

& so - after **10 years** in the **Prodigal Wilderness** - & after **losing**  
Her **Husband** and BOTH **her sons** . . . we read in

**Ruth 1:20-21 (esv)**

***20 She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi (Pleasant); call me Mara (Bitter), for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.***

***21 I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the Lord has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"***

**Man Naomi**, you are indeed **PITIFUL**

**You think** you have **NO HOPE** - But you are So, **So WRONG !!**

& **Notice no mention** of **her SIN** of leaving **God's Land**  
to **chase prosperity** in the World

***Naomi - the Lord has NOT brought Calamity upon you  
Your SIN has brought Calamity upon you . . .***

***& your God - in His Unending Mercy & Grace -  
has Prepared an ETERNAL TREASURE of Blessing for you***

***But in your Depression & Self-Pity  
All you can see, is your bitterness, & your circumstances***

**But** - strictly by **God's Grace**

those **Circumstances** are about to **change**

**Ruth 1:22 (esv)**

***22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.***

In **God's Perfect Timing** - These **two Women** had arrived at the **beginning** of the **Barley Harvest**

**Which** was the **perfect time for** God to give them **HOPE**

**AND** - the **perfect time** for God to **Continue** the **Scarlet thread** that would **bring Jesus Christ** into the world - **According to Plan**

**NAOMI** certainly had **NO idea** what God was doing in all this - **RUTH** - tho she had Faith, she **didn't know** what God was doing **BUT GOD** knew **Exactly** what He was **doing** here . . .

& **God knows Exactly** what He's **doing** in **OUR** lives **TOO**

& we're **going to see** God today - **SET RUTH'S** Path  
& we're **going to see** Him **GUIDE** - & **PROVIDE** for her

**AND** - we're **going to see** - that **RUTH DID** have a **ROLE** in **FOLLOWING** that Path - that God **MADE** for her

& **I pray** today - that we would **TRUST** - that God **knows** **Exactly** what He is **doing** in **OUR Lives**

& **I Pray** we would **understand** - that we **ALSO** have a **ROLE** in **FOLLOWING** the Path God **MAKES STRAIGHT** - for **US**

**TURN over to Prov 3:5-6 (Dani's life's vs)**

I believe these 2 vs's Perfectly Portray the lesson in Ruth today

**Prov 3:5-6 (esv)**

*5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.*

*6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

**THIS** is what we're going to see today - in Ruth Ch 2

**God Generally does NOT:**

- 1) Tell us His Plan
- 2) Make us a Map
- 3) Give us a Neon Sign

We'd like to HAVE those things

But very SELDOM does God give them to us

**What God DOES Promise is - IF we will:**

*Trust in the Lord with **ALL** our heart, &  
**NOT** lean on our own understanding, &  
In **ALL** our ways acknowledge him,  
**THEN** - - - he will make straight our path.*

**It means** that **IF** we are **Truly Surrendered** to Him

then **God** will **SET our PATH** before us

& **THAT** - is **EXACTLY** what we're going to see today

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## So let's get started - Ruth 2:1 (esv)

**1 Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan (family) of Elimelech (Naomi's Husband), whose name was Boaz.**

Here the writer introduces **BOAZ** - Our **THIRD Key Character**

He's related to **NAOMI'S** husband - & he is a **WORTHY MAN**  
although the word "Worthy" is a bit of an **UNDERSTATEMENT**

The NLT says he is - "**A Wealthy & Influential Man**"

& **God** is going to **use him** - to **CHANGE RUTH'S** Life Forever  
**AND** - to **continue** the **Blood-Line** - of **The MESSIAH**

## Ruth 2:2 (esv)

**2 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."**

**GLEANING** was a **welfare system** established by the **Mosaic Law**

**Landowners** were to allow the **Poor** & **Foreigners** to **go thru** the field  
**AFTER** the harvest - & **pick-up the crop** that was left

But **NOT all** Land **Owners** would **follow** this Law

So **RUTH** says - ***I will LOOK for one in Whose sight I find Favor***

## TWO things to NOTICE here:

- 1) **RUTH** didn't just **SIT at home** & Wait for God to bring her Food
- 2) She was **looking** for a "**Confirmation**" of God's leading

**She says** - ***"I will GLEAN after him in Whose Sight I find FAVOR"***

That doesn't sound like much of a plan - But it was ALL God needed to Lead & Guide RUTH - for His Name's Sake

**Ruth 2:3 (esv)**

***3 So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan (family) of Elimelech.***

**Oh** - she **HAPPENED** to come to **the part** of the field belonging to **BOAZ**

**RUTH** didn't know WHO **BOAZ** was - & **didn't know** this was his field

**As far** as **she knows** - she just "**Happened**" into this field

& guys - **WHEN WE** are **Trusting** in the Lord, with **ALL** our hearts & **Not Leaning** on our **Own Understanding** & **Acknowledging** Him in all **Our Ways** . . .

**THEN** - From the "**Human Perspective**" - we will just "Happen" onto the Path God has SET for us

**BUT** - From the "**Divine Perspective**" there is NO "Just happened" about it

Here's **how important** it is for **Ruth** to "**Happen**" into this **right field**

The **Birth of Jesus Christ** being in **Bethlehem** is **Dependent** on **Ruth** just "**happening**" into the **Correct Field** here

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**So** - As **RUTH** is **TRUSTING God** - **Not Leaning** on her understanding She just "**happens**" into the field owned by **BOAZ**

## **Ruth 2:4-5 (esv)**

***4 And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, “The Lord be with you!” And they answered, “The Lord bless you.”***

***5 Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, “Whose young woman is this?”***

**I assure you - Boaz did NOT ask this question  
of every poor widow gleaning in his fields**

& **so** - from this **very first** moment - **something** is **different** here  
**Boaz** is **immediately drawn** to ask about **RUTH**

& it's **not that Ruth** is out there **looking** like a **Princess**  
She'd be **fully covered** - **following** the workers - as a **poor widow**

& so **the Manager** doesn't catch **the GLEAM** in **Boaz's** eye

& He's **not sure WHY** Boaz is **asking** - But he **seems** to be kind of  
**covering** himself - as he **explains** . . .

## **Ruth 2:6-7 (esv)**

***6 And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, “She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. (Moab said with ‘disdain’)***

***7 She said, ‘Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.’ So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest.”***

**The manager** knew **Boaz Lived** by the **Mosaic Law** that allowed  
the **Poor**, & **Foreigners** to **pick up** what the **harvesters** left

& **it seems** like he's saying - I was **just following** the Law -  
**I know** she's a **Moabite** . . .



**But still** - she **IS** Poor, & She **IS** a Foreigner - So I **had no choice**

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& **right here** - it seems like **Boaz** just **raises his hand** & says **WHATEVER** to his field **manager**

**Ruth 2:8-9 (esv)**

***8 Then Boaz said to Ruth . . .***

He just **walks away** from his **manager**  
& **goes directly** to this **Foreigner Widow** in his field

Which **would be unheard of** - **unless** it was a **ruthless owner**  
**trying** to **run off** the poor **OFF** from their field

But **that** was **hardly the case** here - **in fact** - Just the **OPPOSITE**

**(again) Ruth 2:8-9 (esv)**

***8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, “Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women.***

***9 Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn.”***

***Whoa !! - OK, that was kinda weird !!*** - Ruth wasn't expecting **THAT**

**Have you** ever had that **happen**? **Someone** just **singles** you out for **kindness** - **without** you **doing a thing** to **deserve** it? - (**GRACE**)

**I know** - most people **develop** the **love story** here (***& there is one***)

But our TV image of a Beautiful Woman, Gliding across the field,  
with the soft back light, & the "Marilyn Monroe" look . . .

That is NOT what's happening here

Ruth is a Despised Foreigner - who feels everyone's staring at her

She's got her head down, & her hands in the dirt, picking up  
scraps of barley just to have something to eat tonight

& Suddenly - this Wealthy & Powerful man  
is addressing her like she's long lost family

& so we read in - Ruth 2:10-11 (esv)

*10 Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"*

RUTH responds with the appropriate SHOCK

*"I am a MOABITE, How can I find favor in your eyes?"*

But Ruth's FAITH - & Her LOYALTY - to this Family,  
to Israel, & to God - Had already gone before her

2:11 *But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before.*

RUTH had done what was RIGHT - & stuck to her commitments  
WITHOUT regard for WHOEVER might hear about it

& God was Making Sure - the Right Person DID hear about it  
& that right person was BOAZ - *He had heard about it*

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& he'd also heard of Ruth's FAITH in the God of Israel

**Ruth 2:12-13 (esv) - Boaz says**

***12 The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!***

(a beautiful picture of the covering of the Lord)

***13 Then she said, "I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants."***

This is an incredible exchange - occurred in the morning, in the field & by mid-day - BOAZ was having LUNCH with RUTH

& not JUST having lunch with her  
but beginning to shower her with GRACE (*Undeserved Favor*)

**Ruth 2:14 (esv)**

***14 And at mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over.***

**Okay** - this is EXTREME for Ruth's 1st Day as a Beggar in the fields  
NONE of this is Normal & Customary

& not only was she treated as a GUEST at the Lunch Table

**Ruth 2:15-16 (esv)**

***15 When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her.***

***16 And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her."***

**NOW** - She was **picking up** Barley **RIGHT WITH** the **harvesters**

**AND** - the **Harvesters** were **purposefully dropping**  
**what** they were collecting - **right in front** of her

### **Ruth 2:17-18 (esv)**

***17 So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.***

An **Ephah** was a **5-Gallon Bucket** full of **Grain** -  
**3-4 times** what a normal "**gleaner**" would've **expected**

***18 And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied.***

& **Right About NOW** - our "**Marginally Faithful**" **NAOMI**  
is **about** to have a "**CHANGE of Heart**"

& it's **GOOD** that **NAOMI** is going to **begin to have faith**

**But** it's Only **After SEEING** God **GUIDING & PROVIDING**  
**that** her **FAITH** begins to **grow again**

In the **N.T.** - When **Thomas** said he would **believe ONLY** when he  
**saw** the **NAIL** holes & the **PIERCED SIDE** - **Jesus said** to him in

### **John 20:29 (NLT)**

***29 . . . "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."***

**NAOMI'S faith** is going to **Return** - But she **would've been**  
much **more blessed** - to have **had that faith** all along

So - After seeing the Extreme Blessing of RUTH'S 1st day's efforts

### Ruth 2:19-20 (esv)

*19 And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz."*

*20 And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!" . . .*

NAOMI'S referring to her husband and sons

again because - BOAZ is RELATED to NAOMI'S husband

But Even MORE than "Just" Related - the end of v. 20 says

*20 . . . Naomi also said to her, "The man is a close relative (kinsman) of ours, one of our redeemers."*

& so we get our FIRST Mention in the Book of Ruth  
of the Kinsman-Redeemer - The GOEL

This is the 1st of EIGHT times this word is used in Ruth  
& it is a critically important word

We'll develop the "Kinsman-Redeemer" as we go on

But know this . . . THIS is a Picture of Jesus Christ in OUR lives

It is a Picture of OUR REDEMPTION

Of our being Bought Back (Redeemed) by GRACE

It's a picture of what Jesus Christ has done for YOU

if you are saved today - or if you WILL BE saved

**Jesus Christ** has redeemed you - Fully by His Grace  
Which is what BOAZ is headed to doing - with RUTH

& THAT is why - suddenly - Naomi's FAITH is Restored  
because THIS was Truly an incredible 1st day back in town

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So - Cont'g her conversation with Naomi - we read

**Ruth 2:21-23 (esv)**

*21 And Ruth the Moabite said, "Besides, he said to me, 'You shall keep close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.' "*

Naomi's Reading Between the Lines - so she encourages Ruth

*22 And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted."*

*23 So she (Ruth) kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law.*

**What a Story of Love & Redemption - A Story about Boaz & RUTH  
AND - A story about Jesus Christ & YOU**

**IF you will RECEIVE His Love & Redemption Today**

**AND - as Our story unfolds - Each Portion has a LESSON**

**The Lesson for me today is - the Lesson of Prov 3:5-6**

*5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.*

*6 In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.*

Ruth was Trusting in the Lord God of Israel  
She was Not Leaning on her own understanding  
She was Acknowledging the Lord in her actions . . .  
& HE Made Straight Her PATH !! - *Right to her REDEEMER !!*

& that SAME God - Will do the SAME Thing - For you & I  
IF we will follow HIS plan

So, Let me Ask You today . . .

Do you REALLY Trust the Lord with All your heart?  
Not casual acknowledgement - Not church attendance

Have you really put your Full & Complete Trust - in GOD ALONE  
& is it Real Enough - that people around you, can SEE IT?

Have you STOPPED Doing things YOUR Way?  
& Have you begun ACKNOWLEDGING HIM in all you do?

Are you TRUSTING Him to SET YOUR PATH Before You?  
& do you have the FAITH - to Follow Him as He Leads?

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I'd like to call us ALL to A RESPONSE TODAY . . .  
But Not JUST for TODAY

My Question to you today is - WILL YOU;  
Trust God with all your heart - TOMORROW ?  
Not Lean on our Own Understanding - TOMORROW ?  
Acknowledge Him in all you do - TOMORROW ?  
Walk in FAITH that He is "Making Straight" you Path ?

Will you commit with me to do THAT ?  
Not just for today - but for Tomorrow - & Every day after that ?