

Ruth 2

There's Work Involved

Last study....

Elimelech and Naomi move to Moab with their boys Chilion and Mahlon.

- Elimelech dies
- The boys marry Ruth and Orpah
- The boys die
- Naomi hears of bread in Bethlehem and decides to head back
- Ruth and Orpah start to go back with her and Orpah bails
- Naomi and Ruth arrive in Bethlehem and Naomi is struggling with bitterness.....not from the Lord-

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Bitterness can make your life miserable.

The reality of the matter is that we are allowing it to make us miserable.

We will see in this chapter that God gently shows Naomi His love and provision for her and Naomi's choice to receive God's love and provision that removes her bitterness.

With this, a new character is introduced to us.

Boaz, the kinsman redeemer.

Ruth 2:1

There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz.

10 years ago Elimelech took his family to Moab.

Boaz stayed and as a result, became a man of great wealth.

The people of Bethlehem that stayed didn't die, they persevered (longsuffering) thru the tough time, they were still there upon Naomi's return and they were blessed.

"Sometimes we justify wrong choices because of difficult circumstances. But God will strengthen us, and bless us, to make the right choice, even in difficult circumstances."

David Guzik

Boaz-fleetness-quickness-swiftness-in the strength of-to be strong

Boaz and Ruth are David's great-great grandparents ***1 Chronicles 2:12***

He is the son of a Canaanite harlot, named is Rahab

Matthew 1:5-6

Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah.

The story of Rahab is in ***Joshua 2:8-13, 6:23-25***

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Boaz' name was on 1 of the 2 pillars in Solomon's Temple

1 Kings 7:21

Then he set up the pillars by the vestibule of the temple; he set up the pillar on the right and called its name Jachin, and he set up the pillar on the left and called its name Boaz.

(the 4th son of Simeon and founder of the family of Jachinites. Jachin means "He will establish")

Boaz is described here as ***a man of great wealth.***

גִּבּוֹר gibbwr - is translated in other areas of the bible as:

- Mighty
- Mighty man of valor
- Valiant
- Strong man
- Upright man

We are getting a good idea of the character of Boaz. Let's look and see what other characteristics describe him.

Ruth 2:2-3

So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." Then she left, 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 family of Elimelech.

gleaned in the field -to pick up or to gather

God's instruction to His people was to have a generous heart.

God's provision was never to humiliate or dishonor the poor.

God made a way for them and it wasn't a **hand-out**.

The poor & needy could **come & work** (glean) to provide food for themselves and their families.

This instruction is found in ***Leviticus 19:9-10, 23:22*** and ***Deuteronomy 24:19***

We should always pray to the Lord for our provision. Agreed?

But as we pray we should also go out and work. The example is given here.

God never blesses laziness.

Solomon addresses being lazy 14 times in Proverbs.

Proverbs 21:25

The desire of the lazy man kills him, for his hands refuse to labor.

Here Ruth has been instructed in the Jewish law and her example is amazing.

Ruth is not Jewish; remember she is an alien in a foreign land.

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Yet Ruth showed honor to Naomi and asked her if she could go out and help provide. She then went out looking for an opportunity that God could & would use to provide.

she happened-

Circle or mark these 2 words. She happened to end up in field of Boaz.
Is this divine leading? You bet it is!

Sometimes we think that God will give us a detailed map about where to go and what to do. We do receive the instruction from God to go. But go where?

Remember in **Acts 16** when Paul, Silas and Timothy are going.

- They go North, the Holy Spirit says no
- They go East, the Holy Spirit says no
- They go South, the Holy Spirit says no

They finally go west and they end up on the beach, they cannot go any further and then the Lord speaks to Paul in a dream. A man in Macedonia is calling for them to come. They get to Macedonia and they don't find a man, they find women at the river. The church in Philippi began there.

If I had this dream, I would have been looking for a guy in Macedonia?
But Paul went with it. I think the problem we sometimes have is that we are just struggling with the going part.

Remember, God's ways are not our ways.....

Information and Action-

Are there times that you pray for God's instruction or leading when His word already addresses the situation?

**Sometimes we sense the silence of God, yet He has already given us instruction and we chose not to be obedient.*

If you are justifying your actions over the instruction from scripture, that should tell you something.

There is a self-discipline problem. A disobedience problem.

The reality of both of these statement is summed up in this. I do not trust the Lord.

Ruth is willing to go out and work in the fields.

Ruth 2:4-7

Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!"

And they answered him, "The LORD bless you!"

Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"

So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, "It is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.

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And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house."

The character of Boaz, how does he treat his workers? How do they treat Boaz?

"The LORD be with you!" And they answered him, "The LORD bless you!"

Boaz has a good relationship with his servants or in our vernacular, this boss treats his employees well.

**Rules without relationship leads to rebellion.*

Is this the kind of treatment you receive from your boss when you are at work?

Now let us not be critical of our bosses.

But let's examine our responsibility and how this can relate to us.

- How do you treat your employees?
- How do you treat your friends?
- How do you treat your spouse?
- How do you treat your kids?

A good and healthy relationship is vital and it takes a lot of work!

- Boss to employees
- Friendships
- Marital relationships
- Parent to their kids

Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"

Boaz inquires about Ruth.

Her reputation, hard work and loyalty to her mother-in-law speak for her.

How does your reputation speak for you?

There are some interesting similarities between Rahab & Ruth:

- Left all to follow Jehovah
- Submitted to the Jewish way of life
- Found favor with God

Guys-

If you are single, be a godly man! Godly men attract godly women.

If you are married, be a godly man! Be an example of a godly man to your wife and kids.

Ruth 2:8-9

Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not?"

Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women.

Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them.

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***Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you?
And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn.***

Boaz is impressed by Ruth's work ethic and offers her protection and provision and gives her clear instruction.

Ruth has a choice here-grace is being offered to her!

- Does she accept it? YES
- Does she negotiate? NO
- Is she grateful? YES

Working in the fields of Boaz, Ruth would find:

- **Companionship-** *but stay close by my young women* who cut and tied stalks
- **Protection-** Boaz instructed the young men ***Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you?***
- **Refreshment-**when you are thirsty, ***get a drink from what the young men have drawn***

Did you know that this is what the Lord offers us?
Have you found these in your relationship with God?

**Isn't it easy to be kind to others when we can see potential or pay-off from our investment of kindness? True kindness is shown when we extend ourselves to others who have nothing to give back.*

Boaz was a wealthy man.

Ruth was poor and so far we have seen nothing of romance between Boaz and Ruth.

I am sure that with Ruth working in the fields all day, she probably wasn't looking her best.

Ruth 2:10-13

***So she fell on her face, bowed down 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?"
And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."
Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants."***

Ruth humbles herself. She is not demanding, she does not have an attitude of any entitlement, nor is she begging. Notice what Ruth asks:

Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

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She doesn't whine and say, *why have bad things happened to me?*

She is asking, *why are good things happening to me?*

Receiving grace is not an easy thing when pride is involved.

Is there an area of your life that God has been extending grace to you?

Do you feel unworthy or that you have to work to receive this grace?

Boaz verifies her reputation and blesses her. His kindness is special!

Luke 7:41-47

"There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed 500 denarii, and the other 50.

And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?"

Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged."

Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head.

You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in.

You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil.

Therefore, I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."

We need to stop comparing our sins to others. In God's eyes, sin is sin.

We have been forgiven of so much! Let us love like we have been loved and forgive like we have been forgiven.

Ruth knows she doesn't belong; she is a Moabite. Moab is the rubbish bin of the area.

Yet God extends His grace to her thru Boaz!

Ruth 2:14

Now Boaz said to her at mealtime, "Come here, and eat of the bread, and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched grain to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back.

So Boaz asks her on a date, come have dinner with us!

When 2 people are dating, there must be some accountability.

Spending time together in public or with a chaperon is very healthy.

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Gals,

If you want to know how a guy really acts? Watch him around his friends.

Does he act the same way when he is alone with you as he does with his buddies?

How about this one, how does he treat his mother?

You will learn a lot about someone by the company they keep and the respect they have for their parents.

Guys, it's the same thing.

God's law to foreigners and the poor was clear, and to the Moabites.

Deuteronomy 23:3-4

An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his descendants shall enter the assembly of the LORD forever, because they did not meet you with bread and water on the road when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you.

What is different about Ruth? She is a Moabite!

But what is different, the grace of God! Grace **IS** found in the OT.

- She is a New Believer
- Her actions validate her commitment

and she ate and was satisfied

She answered the invitation of Boaz, she wasn't one of the reapers, yet she sat with them. Their first date was a meal with Boaz and his workers.

God's Law functioning properly!

The illegitimate and poor are cared for aside from prejudice.

Ruth 2:15

And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her."

Boaz protected her. He gave instruction to his servants and they obeyed him.

Ruth 2:16-17

"Also let grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her."

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

Boaz also does this in secret, he blesses her yet doesn't make her a charity case.

There is an interesting observation here, don't miss this.

His generosity is shown to Ruth and she continues to work hard. Very hard!

Her gleaning would be over a half a bushel! 17 liters. (that is a lot to carry home).

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We should ask ourselves a few questions here:

- Do you get frustrated over your circumstances and decide to quit?
- Are you ever tempted to stop working once you start to see the Lord's provision?

Ruth 2:18

Then she took it up and went into the city, and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. So she brought out and gave to her what she had kept back after she had been satisfied.

Ruth is still loyal to Naomi. She brings the grain she worked hard for and some food from the table of Boaz for Naomi.

Ruth made a commitment to Naomi and she is honoring that commitment.

Do we honor our commitments?

Ruth 2:19-20

And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one 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." Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives."

Is this the same woman from chapter 1?

Ruth 1:20-21

But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

Naomi was bitter, and now, something has changed.

God has provided for her!

Did God wait for her to change before He provided?

We are not sure, but what we are sure of is that God **has** provided and her heart has changed.

Sometimes we get down emotionally and forget that God is on the throne. 'We forget that He has a plan and He is working!

Is it hard for you to trust that God can transform & redeem your situation?

Why or why not?

Ruth 2:21-23

Ruth the Moabitess said, "He also said to me, 'You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'"

And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, and that people do not meet you in any other field."

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So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

What challenges do you have currently in your life that the Lord may want to work?
I pray that God has shown you something thru this study.

Remember, all of this is in the time of the Judges.
Everyone is doing what is right in their own eyes.

Yet, there are people seeking the Lord and God is providing and protecting.

Every verse in this chapter shares an important principle:

Vs 1-Boaz is family; he has the right to redeem

Vs 2-Ruth finds favor

Vs 3-Ruth is willing to work

Vs 4-We see a principle of labor & management

Vs 5-Decisions being made with the proper information

Vs 6-7-A good reputation speaks for itself

Vs 8-We will receive clear instruction & we must trust that instruction

Vs 9- God will give us protection & provision

Vs 10-We will always find grace with God

Vs 11-Information about reputation is verified

Vs 12-Godly blessing & reward

Vs 13-We will have the opportunity to receive grace

Vs 14-15-God gives His purposed favor & protection

Vs 16-Gods abundant blessing thru hard work

Vs 17-18-Having an attitude of working with humility

Vs 19-We are responsible for sharing & accountability

Vs 20-We give God credit

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Vs 21-We follow detailed instruction

Vs 22-We receive encouragement

Vs 23-Our obedience has value