

Session 2: The Lord provides abundantly, satisfying his children in his timing and ways. (Ruth 2:1-23)
protects

I. Remember: Where are we? How did we get here? (Chapter 1)

1. Elimelech and his family sinned, disobeying God's commands and doubted his love for his people.
2. Elimelech and his family suffered devastating consequences for their decisions.
→ Death = Elimelech and his sons.
→ Despair = Naomi - from lovely to bitter.
3. God's discipline, like the discipline of a loving parent always has a loving purpose - to draw them back to the right way.
→ Turn back and trust the Lord as King!
4. Naomi and Ruth have turned back to the Lord and journeyed back to Bethlehem.
→ Now, they are empty, entirely dependent on provision from an outside source.

Traveled to Moab
Didn't trust the Lord's provision
Married Moabite wives.

----- Chapter 2 is a marvelous glimpse into the provision providential hand of the Lord. Throughout this chapter, we are fed little morsels at God's provision, leading to an incredible culmination.

----- → like a 7-course meal, culminating in a juicy steak. -----

II. Part One of the Provision: The institution of gleaning. (v. 2)

1. God institutionalized a law that protected the poor and the refugee (Lev. 19:9-10). According to this law, farmers would leave scraps for people like Ruth. (v. 2)

III. Part Two of the Provision: Ruth "happened" to stumble into Boaz's property. (v. 3)

1. The author of Ruth is clearly skilled, and only mentions the Lord twice, but makes it very clear that the Lord directs and orders the happenstances of people (v. 3)
→ In his personal narration.

→ Your life isn't going unnoticed. Though pain may be present, the Lord is providing.

IV. Part Three of the Provision: Boaz took notice of Ruth the Moabite (vv. 4-7) (v. 14)

V. Part Four of the Provision: Boaz provided protection and for Ruth (vv. 8-9)

1. Instead of letting Ruth go unprotected, Boaz explicitly tells the men not to touch her.

→ Boaz showed his integrity by fighting for the cause of a vulnerable woman.

i. Do you fight for vulnerable people?

Like a song that the music only splits loudly

~~VI. Part Five of the Provision: Boaz showed his mercy to the vulnerable by~~
VI. Part Five of the Provision: Ruth "ate until she was satisfied, AND she had some left over." (v. 14) (v. 14-18)

1. Catch the author's unmistakable imagery: Naomi went away full, but returned

→ Naomi went away full, but returned empty. (ch. 1)

→ Ruth went out to glean empty, but returned full (ch. 2) (v. 18)

2. This is an incredible moment! ← (v. 18)

→ This morning the capshards were bare, but now Ruth is returning w/ over 30lbs of grain!

→ "Here is a young woman who left everything behind. One morning she leaves her mother-in-law for the day. But in the evening she returns home, not empty, but staggering under the weight of God's blessing and provision." - Sinclair Ferguson, p. 55 Faithful God.

VII. The Source of such a super-abundance of provision: The LORD → The God of covenant-keeping love (hesed) (Lv. 10-13)

1. This is but one example of what it looks like to live under the wings of the true God. (Lv. 12)

→ This type of provision ~~is~~ ^{was} not indicative of people who looked out for themselves.

i. Consider Elimelech earlier in the story.

→ When we ~~hide~~ ^{hide} ourselves under the protective care of the Lord, He provides.

i. Boaz is explicitly ~~saying~~ ^{confirming} that Ruth no longer worships gods other than Yahweh.

Part Six!!
VIII. God's Provision for those who find protection under his wings goes farther than just grain: A REDEEMER! (Lv. 19-20)

↳ In verse 20, we find out an incredible piece of information! Boaz is a possible redeemer of Naomi's family.

→ A kinsman-redeemer's duty was:

i. Buy back his relatives if they fell into debt and had to become slaves (Lv. 25)

ii. Avenge injustice on behalf of a wronged family member.

iii. Sometimes marry the widow of a relative who didn't have a son, ~~and~~ ^{and} raise have a baby in his name, and continue the family line on their behalf.

→ The kinsman-redeemer would show his ^{love +} commitment to his family, God, and people even when doing so would cost him something.

IX. JESUS: The greatest Provision, and our ~~best~~ ^{greater} Redeemer.

1. Naomi says an important word in v. 20 that makes us remember an important truth about God: kindness.

→ More specifically, the word she used was "hesed", which translates to God's "covenant-keeping (Lv. 15) love".

i. God has made a covenant with people, and pledged to never forsake them (Deut. 31), no matter their rebellion or wickedness.

→ It is with this word in mind that we ponder the lengths our redeemer has gone to rescue us.

i. Gal. 3: 13-14 - "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us..."

↳ "God's hesed, his loving-kindness, has been poured out upon us. He has been loyal to his covenant promise, ~~at~~ ^{at} whatever the cost to himself - even when ~~the cost~~ ^{the cost} that cost was the death of his son." - Sinclair Ferguson, p. 58, Faithful God.

X. Do you need a Redeemer?

1. God has not forsaken you, though your life may seem grim. You haven't escaped the extent of his hand's reach.

2. God will provide abundantly, ~~satisfying~~ ^{satisfying} you.

3. The full extent of God's redeeming love can only be felt by those who forsake their old ways (like Ruth), and find protection under his wings. (Lv. 12)

4. God's redeeming love is proven by the great costs he's gone by sending Jesus to purchase us.