

## Ruth Chapter 2

### Announcements:

- Encourage **MISSIONS**: Africa Missions trip and Scott Wall luncheon (next week)
- 11:30am baby dedication - Travis and Kasey Houston (**Billy Houston** (5 months old))

Please open to **Ruth chapter 2** (Need a Bible? Back of seats...)

- Last time: **Bitter Blessings...** **Disobedience** led to **destruction (death)** / **bitterness (Mara)**
- This time: **Ruth is confirmed**; at the time of the **Barley Harvest** - **Hope & Divine Providence!**

### Message Title: "Finding Favor"

- Ruth Reaping (verses 1-7)
- Boaz Blessing (verses 8-16)
- Naomi Noticing (verses 17-23)

**God is working behind the scenes** in all three of them! (no mighty angles heralding, no red sea parting, no thunderous mountain, but through simple ordinary moments). **All things consist in Him!**

- 10+ years now slows down... to one 24 hour period... and every detail matters!

### **Ruth Reaping (verses 1-7)**

#### **PRAY**

V. 1 - *There was a relative (kinsman) of Naomi's husband... of the family of Elimelech*

- Moda = kinsman or relative (not specific...) - Not yet **ga'al/goel** - builds at end of ch 2 into ch. 3

V. 1 - *His name was Boaz...*

- Now introduced to this **very important man**. **Boaz** (strength / pillar)
- Spoiler alert - everything about him is meant to **picture our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**
- He enters the picture here as one who will bring help and hope. A Savior! A Knight! A Prince!
- What kind of man was Boaz before he met Ruth? He was **ruthless... hahaha!**
- **Actually the opposite** is found in the text. V. 1 - **a man of great wealth (noble character)**
- Gibbor Chayil = mighty/brave/noble + strength/valor/excellence/virtuous"
  - Gideon: Judges 6:12 | Virtuous woman (eshet chayil): Proverbs 31:10
  - Boaz was a righteous man of virtue & valor!

The Holy Spirit is announcing him to us in the narrative, but Ruth and Naomi have not yet met this man... **All of this is on purpose. Building the scene that God is sovereignly working...**

**Light is placed along the dark contrast...**

V. 2 - **Ruth the Moabitess**

- **Multiple times**, this is highlighted in our text. **She's a foreigner who doesn't belong...**
- **Setting up the backdrop of tremendous grace!** (think of someone you think doesn't deserve God's grace. Should never be allowed in the fam (A heathen! this is **our story too**, friends...))

V. 2 - [Ruth] said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field and glean heads of grain..."

- You see respect and submission between these two... And they were surely very hungry...
- So Ruth asks to go gleaning (laqat) = gathering what is left behind. hard/humble work.
- The O.T. Law did give commands for the rich to leave some... and the poor to glean some...
- Leviticus 19:9,10 - "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest... You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God." - leave edges unharvested...
- Deuteronomy 24:19 - "When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands." - That fits Ruth!

And Ruth is hoping someone will be generous to her in the fields...

V. 2 - "In whose sight I may find favor... (anyone who is kind enough to let me...)"

- She is expressing hope and dependence on the kindness of a stranger.
- Chen = favor, grace, acceptance - i.e. "Noah found favor (chen) in the eyes of the Lord" (Genesis 6:8) - (new kid at school lunch tables, alone) - It's even deeper - kindness beyond what is deserved. (delivered from judgment!) This is meant to signal salvation language...
  - The New Testament equivalent is Grace (Charis)
- Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God."
- Ruth is hoping to find grace in the fields of Bethlehem (David, Joseph, Jesus, Shepherds)

Vv. 2-3 - "Go, my daughter" So [Naomi] left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers.

- Hard to tell where one property started and the other ended (not fences, but stone markers)

V. 3 - And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz

- The text is being playfully ironic here... lit: "her chance chanced upon." - Think so?
- Proverbs 16:9 - "The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps."
- Proverbs 16:33 - "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD."
- Sometimes God works through mighty signs, and sometimes through simple circumstances.
- Grocery store at the same time... text sent/received... talk to a person at the airport... (others!)
- The narrator already told us there's a really valiant man of noble character... Smiile :)

V. 4 - Now behold

- Behold (hinneh) - pay attention... Wowza! Look! Can you believe it!? Whoa! No way! Dude!
- V. 4 - Boaz came from Bethlehem
- The scriptures are heaping "coincidence" upon "coincidence" here for us...
- Boaz ("just happened") to come out on that particular field... at that particular moment...

And the text highlights again the quality/character of man Boaz is...

V. 4 - [He] said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you!" | They answered him, "The Lord bless you!"

- A godly land owner with honor from his workers (rad company culture) - covenant people!

But now the love story begins... (we don't know for sure if it started out that way yet... you judge!)

V. 5 - Boaz said to his servant who was in charge... "Whose young woman (na'arah) is this?"

- Something about Ruth caught his eye... Beautiful looks? Hard work? Simply new?
  - J Vernon McGee - thinks it was love at first site... (can't tell for sure just yet)

V. 6 - "It is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab."

- The text highlights again (double emphasis) that she is a Moabite from Moab (dismiss her?)

V. 7 - And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.'

- She was respectful and asked...

V. 7 - "She came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house."

- The text says nothing about her external appearance, but clearly highlights her work ethic.
- Ruth 3:11 - "All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character" (eshet chayil) - Her love for Jehovah as shown through in her character... (Does yours?)

But we're not supposed to know all that just yet... For now, Boaz simply takes note of this woman...

- Don't despise small beginnings. God sees quiet faithfulness. You can't steer a parked car!

We've seen God working in Ruth, now we'll see Him working in Boaz...

### Boaz Blessing (verses 8-16)

Wow, what generosity and kindness you see from this man of noble character! (typology!)

V. 8 - Boaz said to Ruth, "...listen, my daughter..."

- He speaks with tenderness by calling her daughter (bat) - a term of endearment.
- He asks her to listen and obey (Shamah) - poetic parallels everywhere!
- Boaz Initiates an invitation... (yep, that's how it works!) (even while we were dead - Eph 2)

V. 8 - "Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here"

- My field is where you will find provision & protection... (do not drift into other fields...)  
- (sound familiar?)

V. 8 - "Stay close to my young women" | V. 9 - "See which field they are harvesting; follow them"

- Follow those who already follow me... they will help you... (sound familiar?)
- Stay Close (davaq) = "to cling, cleave, hold fast, stick to, join with, follow closely"  
- Same word used back in Ruth 1:14 - covenant clinging! (sound familiar?)

V. 9 - "[I have also] commanded the young men not to touch you"

- Not all is merry & bright in Bethlehem during the time of the judges (sinister shadow lurkings)
- The master of the fields protects those in his fields... (sound familiar?) = She is off limits!

V. 9 - "When you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink"

- Drink as much as you want without going to the well... Never thirst again. (sound familiar?)
- Boaz is a living example of the Good Shepherd in Psalm 23: I shall not want... he leads me to green pastures... still waters... refreshes my soul... protection from enemies...) Hallelujah!

V. 10 - So she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground

- Can be taken as an act of worship but not always, sometimes shows humility & gratefulness

- **(sound familiar?)**

- Luke 5:8, ESV - "When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.' - **Poetic parallels everywhere!**

V. 10 - "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me; I am a foreigner?"

- She feels so unworthy of such extravagant grace. Ps. 8:4 - who is man that you are mindful?
- Ruth uses the lowest term possible for foreigner/outsider. No rights, no claim, no standings.
  - **This is our story!**
  - Ephesians 2:12–13 — "Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

Back to our text...

V. 11 - Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me" - small town vibes...

V. 11 - "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband" - honoring!

V. 11 - "How you left your father and your mother and the land of your birth" - and, foreign gods?

V. 11 - "And have come to a people whom you did not know before." - bold and scary...

- Boaz as is commanding her for her actions, character, and faith... (no longer a moabite?)

V. 12 - "[May] the Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you"

- Boaz is praying over her as if she is one of them. For YHWH's blessings!
- V. 12 - "By the Lord God of Israel" - This is a welcoming to covenant worship

V. 12 - "Under whose wings you have come for refuge"

- I love this language and you see it throughout the Bible for those who find comfort in God...
- Kanafayim = "wings, edges or corners of a garment" - mother bird analogy and/or priestly
  - Psalm 91:4 - "He will shelter you with his wings; you will find safety under his wings. His faithfulness is like a shield or a protective wall."
    - **protective "refuge" imagery**
  - Matthew 23:37 - "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!" - **rejection...**

Good news for Ruth, she did not reject God's kindness, but fully surrendered to it...

V. 13 - She said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord"

- This was a polite way of saying, thank you for this blessing, please let me remain in it!

V. 13 - "For you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly"

- Have any of you been comforted like Ruth?
- Beat up by the destructive ways of Moab...
- but have found comfort under the shelter and kindness of our Lord?

Notice how the kindness of Boaz **represented the kindness of God** - we should aim to be like that!

V. 13 - "To your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants."

- Ruth **no longer associates herself as a Moabite**, but does remain **humble/low** (**emphasized**)
- **God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble**

He invites her to **the table!** (**sound familiar?**)

V. 14 - Boaz said to her **at mealtime** Boaz goes **well beyond the requirements** of the Law...

V. 14 - "Come here, and **eat of the bread**, and **dip your piece of bread in the vinegar.**"

- (bros, looking for a romantic valentines date - **bread and vinegar** - any of you yesterday...?)
- **She sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched (roasted) grain to her (raised the bar...ley)**
- Kidding aside... This is **extravagant grace!** **All you can eat buffet! Costco size blessing!**
- V. 14 - **She ate and was satisfied, and kept some back (had some left overs!)** (any lovers?)
- Of course it **reminds us** of the **feeding of the 5.000 in John 6 (enough, plus extras!)**
- **The Lord satisfies our spiritual hunger/thirst**, and **gives life in the fullest! (John 10:10)**
- There is grace for today, grace for tomorrow, and plenty of grace for next week, month, year...

But we see more grace... **grace upon grace!**

V. 15 - Boaz commanded his young men, 'Let her glean **even among the sheaves/bundles**'

- V. 2 - **Shibboleth** (ear of grain) | V. 15 - **Omer** (already harvested bundle)) - **an upgrade!**

V. 16 - "Also **let grain from the bundles fall purposely** for her; leave it that she may glean"

- **Give her more than she can handle!** Provision all along the way... **(beyond the law!)**

Vv. 15-16 - "And **do not reproach/rebuke/humiliate her.**"

- **Don't reprimand her** like you might others. She is to receive: **special honor!** (**sound familiar?**)

**Ruth** has practiced **faithful submission...** **Boaz** has practiced **faithful generosity...** **Where's Naomi?**

### **Naomi Noticing (verses 17-23)**

I love this closing section. We see **hope being restored** to this **bruised, bitter woman** who's been through a lot. But Naomi's is coming to learn, things aren't as bleak as she suggested back in chapter 1

V. 17 - [Ruth] **gleaned in the field until evening**, and beat out what she had gleaned

- **Ruth is a hard worker, man!** **Not only gleaning**, but **threshing/beating out** too...

V. 17 - And it was **about an ephah of barley**

- **This verse makes me think Ruth might have been buff (Luisa!) Beat you in arm wrestling!**
- An **ephah of barley** is approximately 22 liters or about **30-50 pounds** of grain - **lugging that!**
  - **Two weeks worth in a single day...**
  - **She brought out what was left over AFTER she was satisfied... (v. 18)**

V. 19 - [Naomi] said to her, "**Where have you gleaned today?** And where did you work?"

- **Naomi is blown away!** The **sheer quantity** caught her attention... **concrete evidence of favor!**
- V. 19 - "**Blessed be the one** who took notice of you" **She breaks out in praise/thanksgiving**

V. 19 - [Ruth] said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz."

- V. 20 - Then Naomi said, "May he be blessed of the Lord"
  - Now she's praising God for him by name...

V. 20 - "Who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead"

- Keyword alert:

- Kindness (chesed) = "kindness/goodness/mercy (i.e. Unfailing Covenant Love)" (Loyal Love)
- Boaz or God? Interpretations/translations vary... why not both?! Directly / Indirectly...
- Acknowledging a glimpse of hope for future lineage by referencing the dead (dead husband)
- Could he be a "Kinsman Redeemer"? (to honor Elimilech's lineage?)

V. 20 - Naomi said, "This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives (family redeemers)"

- Naomi is now connecting the dots on who Boaz is (this marks a major moment in the story)
  - Ga'al (verb) = "to act as or do the part of a kinsman redeemer (goel (noun))"
- More on this in the coming weeks, but the story is unfolding... (from Moda to Goel!)
- A legal term referring to a close family member who had the responsibility to act on behalf of another vulnerable family member to redeem land, slave, or lineage (Lev. 25 & Num. 25)
  - Interesting, God has announced Himself in this manner towards us...
  - Isaiah 54:5 - "For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer [go'el]."
  - And specifically, this would be revealed in the person of Christ (human flesh)
  - Hebrews 2:14 - "Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things"

Back to our text...

V. 21 - Ruth the Moabitess said...

- Why mention that again? Just to be sure we realize what's happening... Amazing grace!

V. 21 - "You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest."

- Stay close (dabaq) = Cling to my field. Hold fast to my people. John 15:4 – "Abide in Me."
- ALL my harvest (sound familiar?) = till the end of the age when the angels reap (mt. 13)
- Interesting side note: Mishnah Yevamot | Babylonian Talmud - Rabbis decreed a proselyte must wait three months after conversion before she can marry (all my harvest = 3 months)

V. 22 - And Naomi said to Ruth, "It is good, my daughter" - Jackpot! Bitter to Blessed!

- V. 22 - "Go out with his young women (female servants)"
- V. 22 - "That people do not meet you in any other field ('might be harassed/assaulted')"

V. 23 - So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz - Davaq (covenant depth!)

V. 23 - To glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest (in early summer)

- April to June - Three months (barley to wheat) from Pesach to Shavuot
- Jesus is the Lord of the harvest... (Matthew 9:38)
- One day all the wheat will be gathered into the barn... (Matthew 13)
- Jesus will come for His bride and the wedding feast will begin... (Revelation 19:9)
- We too are workers in the field in the middle of a harvest... laborers are few (Matt 9:37)

V. 23 - And she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

- For now, until the story unfolds a little further...

### **CLOSING:**

Ruth's "chance" arrival in Boaz's field was no accident. Your "coincidences" are not accidents either.

A tapestry looks chaotic from the back - threads tangled, knots everywhere.

- But when turned around, it's a masterpiece!

### **PRAY**