

Ruth 2

Jesus

▪ Ch. 1: Family Goes to Moab

1. Famine in Israel/Naomi's Family moves to Moab: Mother, Father, 2 Sons
2. Nomi's Husband dies/Sons marry/Sons die
3. Naomi in foreign land w/ 2 Moabite daughters-in-laws
4. Lord visits Israel w/Bread. Naomi leave Moab w/ one daughter in law...Ruth

Ruth 1:20b... [People of Bethlehem welcome Naomi; Pleasant] "Do not call me Naomi; **call me Mara** [Better], for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. 21 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 believed her life was over.

God was done with her because things did not go the way she hoped

- **A.** What happens when our plans don't go as planned?
- **Q.** We get back on God's agenda...
 1. We stop trying to fix things/doing things our way
 2. We trust in God and His plan/We look for/Acknowledge His unseen hand...

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and **lean not** on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways **acknowledge Him**, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil.

Ruth teaches us that for Believers there is no such thing as Coincidence

Ruth 1:22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

Naomi believed her life was over. Her life was over. God's life in her could now begin

John 12:24 ... unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; **but if it dies**, it produces much grain. [Becomes what it was meant to be]

- Naomi and daughter in law Ruth now back in Bethlehem...

I. Ruth Meets Boaz

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

- **Boaz:** Lit. Fleetness
 1. Relative of Elimelech
 2. Son of Rahab from Joshua
 3. Grandfather of King David
 4. Very Wealthy

2 So Ruth the Moabite 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.**"

- **Ruth the Moabitess:** Read Ruth the outcast...
 1. Naomi now impoverished
 2. Ruth offers to find food
 3. **Naomi:** Go my daughter.

When we are hungry, we desire to be filled

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who **hunger**/thirst for righteousness, for they shall be **filled.**

Luke 6:21 Blessed are you who hunger now, for you **shall be filled.**

Ephesians 5:18 ... be filled [continually] with the Spirit

- Hunger gives us the desire/motivation to be filled
- **Apostle Paul:** Do not lose heart at my tribulations...God has a plan

Ephesians 3:14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be **strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,** 17 that **Christ may dwell in your hearts** through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be **filled with all the fullness of God.**

God will do far more than we expect but...
God won't do anything until we **expect something** [NJC]

[Continued] ...**20** Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly **above all that we ask** or think, according to the power that works in us, **21** to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

- **Hungry is a good place to be**
 1. Looking to be filled
 2. Any filling is received as a gift
 3. God gets the glory
- **Sometimes...**
 1. Sickness/Death are part of the plan
 2. Heartache is part of the plan
 3. Loss is part of the plan

Hunger is part of God's plan for Naomi/Ruth as the curtain begins to open
Eternal plan that will lead birth of King David/culminate in birth of Messiah 1000 years later

- What does God's plan sound like? Like a simple conversation...
- **Let me go find food:** Go my daughter

3 Then [Ruth] 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.

- **Ruth Gleaned:** OT Welfare Program instituted by God
 1. Reaper allowed only one pass
 2. Poor would pick up what was left
 3. Anyone could eat if they worked

2 Thessalonians 3:10 ... If anyone will not work, **neither shall he eat.** 11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, **not working** at all, but are busybodies. 12 Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they **work in quietness and eat their own bread.**

- Working/Gleaning preserves humanity/dignity of person
- **Ruth finds herself in field of Boaz:** Relative of Naomi's deceased husband
 1. Finds herself/Happens upon the field of Boaz
 2. No such thing as coincidence in believer's life

4 Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, **"The Lord be with you!"** And they answered him, **"The Lord bless you!"**

Godly man: Heart for the humble

- **Picture of David his grandson:** Turn bums/bad guys into might men
- **Picture of Jesus his Great Grandson...**
 1. Heart for leper
 2. Heart for sinner
 3. Heart for children
 4. Heart for outcast
- **Boaz:** Man after God's own heart. Puts himself at same level as common man...

"The Lord be with you!" they answered "The Lord bless you!"

5 Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" 6 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."

- **Chuck Smith:** Who's that new chick?
- **Identity:** Young Moabite. Identified as outcast. God give us new identity

Isaiah 61:3 [of Zion and believers] [I will...] give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."

Isaiah 62:2b... [of Zion and believers] You shall be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the Lord will name. You shall also be a crown of glory In the hand of the Lord, And

a royal diadem In the hand of your God. ...

Revelation 2:17 And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

Revelation 3:12b... And I will write on him My new name.

- The mirrors of the world are carnival mirrors: Just Moabite, outcast, throw away
- **The mirror of God's Word shows reveals our true identity as believers**

1. **Child of God:** Called to God and out of the world...

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called **children of God!**

2. **Treasure/Pearl of Great Price.** We have worth in God's eyes

Hebrews 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- **Boaz approaches Ruth:** Who is this!

7 And [Ruth] said to [Boaz], '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." 8 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**. 9 Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. 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."

- Don't go to another field...
- Stay close to the women
- Keep your eyes on the field
- I've instructed the men not to approach you
- Drink from the water vessels only after the men have drawn and left

I like you. I will protect you. I want you for Myself...

- **Song of Solomon:** Picture of Jesus and Bride of Christ. Love Story

Song of Solomon 4:9 [Solomon to Wife] You have ravished my heart, My Sister, *my* spouse; You have ravished my heart with one *look* of your eyes, With one link of your necklace. ¹⁰ How fair is your love, My sister, *my* spouse! How much better than wine is your love, And the scent of your perfumes Than all spices! ¹¹ Your lips, O *my* spouse, Drip as the honeycomb; Honey and milk *are* under your tongue; And the fragrance of your garments *Is like the fragrance of Lebanon.*

**God desires intimacy with us
What happens when we realize what Jesus really thinks about us?**

10 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?"

- Why have I found Grace in your eyes? Why would you notice me?

Psalm 8:3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, 4 What is man that You are mindful of him...?

11 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.

- Boaz knew all about her...

Psalm 139:2 O Lord, You have searched me and known me. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. 4 For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether...**17** How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

- **He knows all about Ruth:**

1. **Ruth's kindness** to Naomi by going to work
2. **Ruth's bravery** in leaving her people, gods/coming to Bethlehem
3. **Ruth's faith...**

12 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.**"

- Your faith in the Living God has been noticed
- Ruth went out as Abram not knowing what was to come
- Boaz: Your trusted God for refuge and he answered you through me

13 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." 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**. 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. 16 Also **let grain from the bundles fall** purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her." 17 So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. 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.

- **God's Grace shown through Boaz**

1. Allowed her to sit at his table

Psalm 23:5 [David knew the goodness of God] You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

2. Commanded men to let her go ahead of them
3. Commanded men to let some good stuff drop

- **Ruth took the haul back to Naomi...**

Finally giving up all hope in her own plan, Naomi now begins to see God's plan unfold

19 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**." 20 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."

- **Curtain now opening for Naomi...**

1. Ruth happened into Boaz field
2. Boaz happened to find her cute
3. Boaz happened to be related to Naomi's dead husband

- No coincidences in a believer's life...

God enters all data into His eternal plan: Man's choice, man's sin, man's obedience and He works it out to His end goal/purpose; i.e. our good and His glory. [NJC]

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

- Stay close to young men? Not what he said.
- Ruth probably meant he said not to go to another field...
- **Just to be sure...**

22 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."

- Stay with the young woman Ruth.

23 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.

- **Taking things slow...**Stay until God says move

1. Stay with the young woman
2. Stay for entire harvest
3. Stay with mother in law

- **No coincidences in a believer's life.**

God interweaves His Eternal plan through our everyday lives as we do everyday things. Faith pulls back the curtain and the eyes of our hearts are enlightened to perceive the supernatural workings of God. [NJC]

SUMMARY Ruth Meets Boaz