

I. Introduction: Naomi believed that she had returned to Bethlehem empty and without hope, but God brought Boaz into Ruth's life and changed their destinies forever.

II. The Field of Redemption (Ruth 2:1-23).

A. Subtle Providence (vv. 1-3).

1. Ruth and Naomi arrived in Bethlehem in need of food and protection; God sovereignly brought Ruth into the field of Boaz (who would be her kinsman redeemer).

B. Sudden Attention (vv. 4-7).

1. Ruth set out to find food for her and Naomi when she caught the eye of Boaz, who was a close relative of Elimelech and a righteous businessman.

C. Surprising Kindness (vv. 8-17).

1. Boaz showed unexpected goodness to Ruth by extending his provision and protection to her, as a reward for Ruth's kindness to Naomi and his extended family.

D. Shocking Revelation (vv. 18-23).

1. Ruth returned to Naomi with a sack full of grain and a good story. Naomi praised God's faithfulness and revealed that Boaz was a potential kinsman redeemer.

III. Conclusion: God blessed Ruth as she faithfully went about providing for her family in the most ordinary circumstances, and led her to a husband and a kinsman redeemer.

Questions About: The Field of Redemption

1. How has God orchestrated your life? Can you look back on your life and see how God's hand has directed you? How has He ordained where you live? Who you married? Where you work?
2. How did the author indicate a subtle providence in Ruth's life (**Ruth 2:1-3**)? How was Boaz described? (**v. 1**) Why did Ruth ask permission to go? (**v. 2**) Why didn't Naomi go with her?
3. Do you have a big God? Is He sovereign or subordinate to your circumstances? If you have a small God, how big will your problems seem? If you have a big God, how little will they seem?
4. How did Boaz suddenly realize Ruth was in his field? (**Ruth 2:4-7**) Why did Boaz ask, "who does she belong to?" What do you learn about Ruth's character from the foreman? (**vv. 6-7**)
5. How did Boaz show surprising kindness? (**Ruth 2:8-17**) Why did Ruth bow down before Boaz? (**v. 10**) What did Boaz know about her? (**vv. 11-12**) What was significant about his words?
6. How did Boaz further provide for Ruth? (**Ruth 2:14-17**) How did he provide for her beyond the requirements of the law? (**vv. 15-17**) How much barley was she able to gather up in one day?
7. What was shocking to Naomi when Ruth returned? (**Ruth 2:18-23**) How had Naomi's faith in God been restored? (**vv. 19-20**) What revelation did Naomi have for Ruth about Boaz? (**v. 20**)
8. What did it mean that Boaz was one of their "redeemers"? (**v. 20**) Why is that significant? What was Naomi's advice to Ruth? (**vv. 22-23**) How does the chapter end on an unresolved note?

Prayer

1. Pray that you would live with a daily understanding of how big God truly is in the world.
2. Ask God to reveal how He can use you to show grace to others who are in need.