

RUTH

THE GOD OF SECOND CHANCES



Ruth: The God of Second Chances | “ReStart Here”

Ruth 2:1-23

Harper loves to build...& nothing discourages her more than when her younger brother destroys her creations.

It is easy to give up...but God has more for us, doesn't He? → Ruth 2:1-23

→**Where do we restart?**→First...get back to Bethlehem.

→Summary: How is anyone suppose to work themselves back from total devastation? How is God involved in the rebuilding of our lives? More importantly, how are we suppose to respond when we are carrying all the emotional baggage of our past misfortunes and mistakes? With so many questions, we can get lost in practical application. But God has called us to be bold and to trust Him with the little things.

Graphic→Naomi is devastated. Her life has gone from “sweet” to “bitter.” At least she is back in Bethlehem, the “House of Bread,” where God has ended the famine. Ruth, the Moabite widow of her son, accompanies her and shows initiative by “gleaning” in a field she later finds out belongs to Boaz, a potential “family redeemer.” She brings food to Naomi and shares that Boaz has gone out of his way to promise to protect and provide for her. God seems to be working behind the scenes.

Ruth 2:1-23: Now there was a wealthy and influential man in Bethlehem named Boaz, who was a relative of Naomi's husband, Elimelech.

2 One day Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go out into the harvest fields to pick up the stalks of grain left behind by anyone who is kind enough to let me do it.”

Naomi replied, “All right, my daughter, go ahead.” 3 So Ruth went out to gather grain behind the harvesters. And as it happened, she found herself working in a field that belonged to Boaz, the relative of her father-in-law, Elimelech.

We show up.→I will DO something about my belief/commitment. = BE PRESENT. SERVE. GIVE!→BOLD!→MEN!

- Ruth shows up...despite all her opposition and emotional burdens: 10 years of infertility, immigrant status of a hated nation, a mother in law who is depressed / despondent.→Ruth is powerless, but she still SHOWS UP.
- Where is God calling you to “SHOW UP?”→Marriage. Kids. Church→Its not a small thing to SHOW UP!
- My fear: powerlessness. By showing up and investing, serving, giving...I am acting on my belief/commitment in God.

→TRANSITION: When we BOLDLY show up & serve & give...SOMETHING happens. God is working behind the scenes...& He takes the little things we offer him...and turns them into good things.

4 While she was there, Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters. “The Lord be with you!” he said. “The Lord bless you!” the harvesters replied.

5 Then Boaz asked his foreman, “Who is that young woman over there? Who does she belong to?”

6 And the foreman replied, "She is the young woman from Moab who came back with Naomi. 7 She asked me this morning if she could gather grain behind the harvesters. She has been hard at work ever since, except for a few minutes' rest in the shelter."

8 Boaz went over and said to Ruth, "Listen, my daughter. Stay right here with us when you gather grain; don't go to any other fields. Stay right behind the young women working in my field. 9 See which part of the field they are harvesting, and then follow them. I have warned the young men not to treat you roughly. And when you are thirsty, help yourself to the water they have drawn from the well."

10 Ruth fell at his feet and thanked him warmly. "What have I done to deserve such kindness?" she asked. "I am only a foreigner."

11 "Yes, I know," Boaz replied. "But I also know about everything you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband. I have heard how you left your father and mother and your own land to live here among complete strangers."

12 May the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done."

13 "I hope I continue to please you, sir," she replied. "You have comforted me by speaking so kindly to me, even though I am not one of your workers."

14 At mealtime Boaz called to her, "Come over here, and help yourself to some food. You can dip your bread in the sour wine." So she sat with his harvesters, and Boaz gave her some roasted grain to eat. She ate all she wanted and still had some left over.

15 When Ruth went back to work again, Boaz ordered his young men, "Let her gather grain right among the sheaves without stopping her. 16 And pull out some heads of barley from the bundles and drop them on purpose for her. Let her pick them up, and don't give her a hard time!"

When we show up...good things happen!→What happens when we don't show up?→NOTHING!→BACON!

- Boaz shows up...and offers protection, provision, & a promise. This is BEYOND generous. 2:17 - ephah = 30-50 pounds of grain = months' worth of grain ration allotted to male worker!→God seems to be working!
- Grateful: 80+ to SERVE DAY: food, prayer, widow projects, fire & police appreciation, quilts for hurting kids!
- Take a packet.→Join a Dream Team.→Bring meal to someone→Give an offering.→A neighbor in need...

→TRANSITION: When we show up...good things happen. How does God use the good things in our lives?

17 So Ruth gathered barley there all day, and when she beat out the grain that evening, it filled an entire basket. 18 She carried it back into town and showed it to her mother-in-law. Ruth also gave her the roasted grain that was left over from her meal.

19 "Where did you gather all this grain today?" Naomi asked. "Where did you work? May the Lord bless the one who helped you!"

So Ruth told her mother-in-law about the man in whose field she had worked. She said, "The man I worked with today is named Boaz."

20 "May the Lord bless him!" Naomi told her daughter-in-law. "He is showing his kindness to us as well as to your dead husband. That man is one of our closest relatives, one of our family redeemers."

21 Then Ruth said, "What's more, Boaz even told me to come back and stay with his harvesters until the entire harvest is completed."

22 "Good!" Naomi exclaimed. "Do as he said, my daughter. Stay with his young women right through the whole harvest. You might be harassed in other fields, but you'll be safe with him."

23 So Ruth worked alongside the women in Boaz's fields and gathered grain with them until the end of the barley harvest. Then she continued working with them through the wheat harvest in early summer. And all the while she lived with her mother-in-law.

We eventually realize all the good things in our lives are actually God things.→Hindsight = 20/20→James 1:7

- Ruth simply reports the good things that have happened, but Naomi interprets them through the lens of God. She seems revived...talking about a family redeemer, the Law, and blessing...GOOD!→Justys Renegado
- VISION: Prayer for those who are feeling depressed, devastated...or despondent.→Prayer: Daring to hope...
→TRANSITION: When we show up...and offer God the little things..he turns into a good things. And God uses those good things...to raise God awareness in others' lives. People are being impacted when we show up!

→Be bold and show up so Jesus can show you how He works!

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. What are the greatest obstacles i have overcome in life?
2. How did God help me build or re-build rebuild life?
3. Was I able to recognize the good things in the midst of the bad circumstances?
4. How does God want to use my story to revive the heart of someone watching?
5. **PRAYER:** "Father, help me to be bold by showing up so you can show me how you work!"

VIDEOS / GRAPHICS:

- Bible Project "Ruth" Graphic: [Click HERE to download.](#)
- Bible Project "Ruth" Video Summary: [Click here to watch on Youtube](#) or watch below.



SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

- **Romans 8:28** - *And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*
- **Proverbs 18:10** - *The name of the LORD is a strong fortress; the godly run to him and are safe.*
- **James 1:7** - *Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.*
- **Laws on: how to treat a foreigner:** Exodus 22:21, Exodus 23:9, 12, Lev. 23:22, Deut. 10:18-19, Lev. 19:33-34
- **Laws on: provisions for the poor:** Lev. 19:9-10, Deut. 24:19-22
- **Laws on: kinsman redeemer:** Lev. 25:23-55 / Deut. 25:5-10

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