

GOD IS IN THE DETAILS  
Ruth 1:19-2:14 (NIV)

❖ The Truth of Today:

- We serve a God of DETAILS.

*So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?"<sup>20</sup> "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter."<sup>21</sup> I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me."<sup>22</sup> So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.*

Ruth 1:19-22 (NIV)

- Sovereign – God RULES and REIGNS over all things.
- Providence – The WAY God rules and reigns.

❖ God's Providence Leads:

1. To a FILLING for the EMPTY.

*So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?"*

Ruth 1:19 (NIV)

*"Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter."*

Ruth 1:20 (NIV)

*"I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me."*

Ruth 1:21 (NIV)

*So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.*

Ruth 1:22 (NIV)

2. To DIRECTION in the CHAOS.

*Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek, whose name was Boaz.*

Ruth 2:1 (NIV)

*And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor."*

Ruth 2:2a (NIV)

*Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter." <sup>3</sup> So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek.*

Ruth 2:2b-3 (NIV)

- God is not a God of ACCIDENTS – He is a God of APPOINTMENTS.

*You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.*

Psalm 139:16 (NLT)

3. To margin for the MARGINALIZED.

*And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor."*

Ruth 2:2a (NIV)

*When you are harvesting your crops and forget to bring in a bundle of grain from your field, don't go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigners, orphans, and widows. Then the Lord your God will bless you in all you do. <sup>20</sup> When you beat the olives from your olive trees, don't go over the boughs twice. Leave the remaining olives for the foreigners, orphans, and widows. <sup>21</sup> When you gather the grapes in your vineyard, don't glean the vines after they are picked. Leave the remaining grapes for the foreigners, orphans, and widows. <sup>22</sup> Remember that you were slaves in the land of Egypt. That is why I am giving you this command.*

Deuteronomy 24:19-22 (NIV)

4. To Godly CHANGE.

*Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The Lord be with you!" "The Lord bless you!" they answered. <sup>5</sup> Boaz asked the overseer of his harvesters, "Who does that young woman belong to?" <sup>6</sup> The overseer replied, "She is the Moabite who came back from Moab with Naomi. <sup>7</sup> She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.' She came into the field and has remained here from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter."*

Ruth 2:4-7 (NIV)

*So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me. <sup>9</sup> Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled."*

Ruth 2:8-9 (NIV)

- God's Providence Will Provide You With:

- A new NAME.  
So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me."  
Ruth 2:8a (NIV)
- A new COMMUNITY.  
"Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me."  
Ruth 2:8b (NIV)
- A new POSITION.  
"Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled."  
Ruth 2:9 (NIV)
- New PROTECTION.  
"I have told the men not to lay a hand on you."  
Ruth 2:9a (NIV)
- New PROVISIONS.  
"And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled."  
Ruth 2:9b (NIV)

5. To SATISFACTION for those who seek it.

*At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, "Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?"<sup>11</sup> Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before.<sup>12</sup> May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."*

Ruth 2:10-12 (NIV)

*"May I continue to find favor in your eyes, my lord," she said. "You have put me at ease by speaking kindly to your servant—though I do not have the standing of one of your servants."*

Ruth 2:13 (NIV)

*At mealtime, Boaz said to her, "Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar." When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over.*

Ruth 2:14 (NIV)