



Faithful The Story of Ruth

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“It Just So Happened: God's Kindness Incognito”

Ruth 2:1-23

September 29, 2019

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Theme: In Ruth 2, Ruth takes initiative to find food for Naomi and herself. It “just so happens” that she chooses to glean in the field of Boaz, a near relative of Elimelek and one of Naomi’s ‘guardian-redeemers.’ Boaz treats Ruth with great kindness, going above and beyond his covenantal obligations. At the end of the chapter, Ruth brings Naomi food and also the hope that the LORD is at work in their dire situation.

Outline:

1. Just a Coincidence? (2:1-3)
 - a. Narrator fills us in on who Boaz is
 - b. Ruth initiates finding food and just so happens to choose Boaz’s barley field

2. Entrance Stage Left: Boaz Is Introduced (1:4-16)
 - a. Covenantal context emphasized (1:4)
 - b. Boaz in conversation with his overseer (1:5-7)
 - c. Boaz and Ruth: Boaz responds with *hesed* to Ruth's *hesed* (1:8-16)

3. Back at Home: The Tide Has Begun to Turn...
 - a. Provision of food (1:17-18)
 - b. Provision of a “guardian-redeemer” (1:19-20)
 - c. Provision for the rest of the harvest season (1:21-23)

4. Where is God at work in Ruth 2?

Takeaway:

God is at work with covenant kindness even when we cannot see this clearly or directly. Just as God shows this kind of ‘above-and-beyond’ kindness, God also calls us to be instruments of covenant kindness, going above and beyond what is expected (as Ruth and Boaz exemplify).

Next Cove:

Date: October 6, 2019

Title: Desperate Times Call for Desperate Measures: When God Shows Up at the Threshing Floor