

You Are Going to Be Filled in This Place (Ruth 2:14-16)

Ruth left to glean as an impoverished foreigner with a nag for a mother-in-law...not exactly a recipe for joy or blessing. But what happens to happen in Boaz's field is enough to shift our thinking from an impoverished mindset, to a mindset of blessing.

RUTH'S LIFE THAT MORNING WAS ONE BIG QUESTION MARK.
BUT HER AFTERNOON HAS TURNED INTO AN ANSWER

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN THOSE PLACES WHERE YOUR LIFE IS A QUESTION MARK? WHERE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THOSE NEXT FEW STEPS ARE GOING TO HOLD FOR YOU?

- **Come to the Redeemer's Table**
- Boaz makes three major moves here on Ruth's behalf
 - o One with his hand
 - o Two with his word

AT THE REDEEMER'S TABLE – THE HUNGRY ARE SATISFIED WITH PLENTY AND PROMISE

The Redeemer's hand transfers the promise of the table to the place of our hunger (Ruth 2:14)

This word is for you: satisfied...say it out loud, "satisfied"

- some of you need to pray that over your lives, over your children and grandchildren's lives

Ruth 2:14 says that Ruth ate until she was "satisfied"

- the word satisfied (Heb: *saba* - saw-va) does mean "to be filled" - as expected
- but it is the common usage of the word leading up to this point in Hebrew history that is so interesting
 - this word is used repeatedly in the book of Deuteronomy
 - and most every time it is used it is not simply a matter of people eating enough...it is what that fullness is supposed to make them remember!

Deuteronomy 6:10-12

10 "And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, **11** and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, **12 then take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.**

WHERE GOD'S PROVIDENCE LEADS US IS ALWAYS PLACE OF PROVISION, AND YOU CAN [AND WILL] BE SATISFIED.

NOT BECAUSE YOU WORKED YOUR WAY INTO IT, AND NOT BECAUSE YOU PLANNED WELL...BUT BECAUSE YOU WERE WILLING TO STEP INTO THE FIELD - INTO THE PLACE - THAT HE LED YOU TO!

AT THE REDEEMER'S TABLE – THE SOJOURNERS ARE IDENTIFIED AS CITIZENS

The Redeemer's word makes room for the outsider to step into a place of belonging (Ruth 2:15)

The text says that Ruth ate until she was “satisfied.”

- This Hebrew word *saba*, again, does literally mean “to be satisfied, be fulfilled”
 - o This word is used SEVEN times in Moses’ address to the people in Deuteronomy.
 - o ALONG WITH IT’S CONNECTION TO OUR REMEMBERING THE SOURCE OF OUR PROVISION, IT IS DEEPLY CONNECTED TO ANOTHER IDEA AS WELL:
 - o Moses uses it to speak of the fullness the people will experience when they harvest, gather and sit at their tables **in Canaan** (Deut. 6:11; 8:10; 8:12; 11:15; 14:29; 26:12; 31:20)...including this promise which stands very relevant to our text:

Deuteronomy 14:29

The Levite, who has no portion or inheritance among you, the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow within your gates may come and eat, **and be satisfied**. And the Lord your God will bless you in all the work of your hands that you do. (NASB)

- o **This is, up until the book of Ruth, used most frequently as language to describe the Promised Land.**
- o **This is what Ruth experienced as she was brought under Boaz’s protection and fed from his table...LOOK AT THE TEXT: THE ONE WHO HAS NO PORTION, THE FOREIGNER, THE WIDOW MAY COME AND “BE SATISFIED” WITH WHAT THE LAND OF INHERITANCE HAS PROVIDED!!!**
- **Boaz, through an invitation at the table, is welcoming Ruth into the fellowship of the promises of God**
 - o This sounds familiar doesn’t it?
 - o God making room at the table for the outcasts, the outsiders...this is how the gospel looks practically
 - o “The body of Christ broken for you, the blood of Christ shed for you.”

SO LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENS: THE SATISFACTION OF RUTH FROM BOAZ’S HAND INITIATES A DECLARATION BY HIS MOUTH – “LET HER GLEAN AMONG THE SHEAVES...”

- His word moved her from the area reserved for the foreigner, to the area devoted to the citizens
- **HE SPOKE FOR HER**

Story of Wilfredo Garza

HIS FATHER’S IDENTITY SPOKE FOR HIM...AND WHEN HIS FATHER’S IDENTITY DECALRED HIS CITIZENSHIP, HE NO LONGER HID IN THE SHADOWS, SNEAKING AROUND TO GET THE RESOURCES OF A FOREIGN LAND, HE BOLDLY WALKED INTO THE PLACE OF PROVISION BECAUSE HE BELONGED!!

When we respond to the call of God from the edges to the table, what we find is that we don’t go back to the edges...because the table and the hand of our Redeemer changes our status, changes our identity, changes our citizenship!!

- She took her lunch break as a refugee from Moab
- She went back to work as a citizen of Bethlehem
- Because an encounter with the Redeemer changes everything!!!

YOUR IDENTITY WILL BE DETERMINED BY WHOSE WORD YOU LIVE UNDER.

AT THE REDEEMER'S TABLE – THE EMPTY ARE RESUPPLIED UNTIL THEY ARE FILLED

The Redeemer's word makes sure that emptiness is replaced with radical provision (**Ruth 2:16**)

Boaz not only declares that she belongs in the middle of the harvest, not the edges, he also tells the workers to make sure that their work leads to her abundance!

WHAT RUTH LEARNED THAT DAY WAS THAT THE FIELDS SHE THOUGHT WERE MERELY A MEANS TO KEEP HER ALIVE, WERE ACTUALLY GOING TO:

- 1. RE-IDENTIFY HER LIFE,**
- 2. RESURRECT HER MOTHER-IN-LAW'S LIFE,**
- 3. RESTORE HER HUSBAND AND FATHER-IN-LAW'S NAME, AND**
- 4. REVEAL MORE RESOURCES THAN SHE COULD GAIN ACCESS TO ANY OTHER WAY!**

WE NEED TO BECOME PEOPLE WHO START TO BELIEVE THAT - BECAUSE WE ARE GOD'S PEOPLE, CITIZENS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN - WE WILL BE BLESSED.

- The problem with me saying this is not that it's not true
- The problem with me saying this is that we've pigeon-holed and hijacked the idea of what blessings are. Blessings are just as much, and even more so, about giving, serving and loving as they are about receiving, being served, and being loved.

Blessings are not things that we get as much as they are things we are given to give away.

Blessings are not limited to money, health and stuff - but they are found in the soil of relationships, work and sacrifice.

IF WE AREN'T SATISFIED WHERE WE CURRENTLY ARE, AND WE'VE BEEN LED THERE BY GOD, THE PROBLEM IS NOT THE PLACE IT IS OUR PERSPECTIVE!

WHAT CAN CHANGE YOUR TONE?

TO COME TO BELIEVE THAT WHAT YOU THOUGHT WAS A SEASON OF MERE SURVIVAL WAS ACTUALLY A SEASON OF GREAT SALVATION.

In His Providence, God has led you into THIS DAY and THIS PLACE for a reason...NOW what does it look like for you to live as if that's true?

SO WHAT IF WHERE YOU ARE ISN'T WHERE YOU THINK IT IS?

- Maybe you have been longing for a change of scenery, a change of circumstances...a different experience or just something else. But would it change your mind to know that you aren't just in a random field, trying not to die...but that you've actually walked into the fields of Redemption, and your Redeemer has been with you the entire time?

Don't trade the place God has led you to for something else just yet...seek His face, sit at His table, look closely at the blessings He is offering you...you might just find that you've been standing on diamonds the whole time.

LONG BEFORE WE UNDERSTAND THE POINT OF THE CERTAIN SEASON OR SITUATION THAT WE ARE IN - LONG BEFORE WE CAN SAY, "AHA, THAT'S WHY!" - LONG BEFORE IT IS CLEAR TO US - WE ARE BEING LOVED BY, CARED ABOUT, AND PROVIDED FOR BY OUR REDEEMER!