



# RUTH

— grafted in



# The Surprising Providence Of God

Ruth 2:1-13; Lev. 19:9-10





# 2:1-3 Boaz, Ruth and Yahweh's Providence

- Boaz: relative and wealthy
  - Integrity, influence, means
- Ruth: the Moabite
  - Foreigner, Undesirable, Gen. 19:30-37
- The Law of 'Gleaning'
  - God's providence for the poor, the stranger Lev. 19:9-10
- “*By chance she chanced upon...*”
  - God is behind the outcome!



# 2:4-9 And Behold, Boaz ..!

- Boaz speaks with his employees
  - Marked by GRATITUDE for God's provision
  - “If we have anything, it is because He everything”
- Boaz speaks with his field manager
  - Race and racism in the OT? Deut. 7:3
    - NO! Concern was religious: Deut. 7:4, 1 Ki. 11:1-4
    - Acts 2:5-11 ALL races, but united by their faith in Yahweh



# 2:4-9 And Behold, Boaz ..!

- Boaz speaks with Ruth
  - 'daughter': kindness, gentleness *and* yes... age difference.
  - PROVISION: Insists she stay in his fields.
  - PROTECTION: Urges her to stay with his female workers
  - PRIVILEGE: Allows her to glean close to the harvesters
  - PREFERENCE: Invites her to access their water





# 2:10-13 The God who sees!

- Ruth and Boaz praise the Lord
  - *Why have you seen me?* B/c I serve the God who sees!
  - *Why have you been so good to me?* B/c I imitate the God who cares for others!
  - *Why have you 'favored' me?* B/c I see who you are!
    - Does not belong; Does not 'deserve' grace;
    - Has no merit/significance; can only receive his grace



# 2:10-13 The God who sees!

- Is this not what it means to receive salvation?
  - *We do not belong to God's family*
  - *We have no merit of our own.*
  - *We cannot 'fix' what ails us.*
  - *We are wholly dependent upon a Savior*
- And yet, He offers us new life!
  - Ps. 103:10; Rom. 3:23-24;
  - Eph. 2:8-9; 1 Ti. 1:14-16





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*How satisfying to the alienated person, to the one who feels ‘alone in the unfeeling immensity of the universe’ to find that, far from the ancient covenant being ‘in pieces’, God is there, God cares, God rules, God provides.*

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Atkinson, pp. 68-69





# In Prayer...

- Praise: Praise God for His mercy and grace inviting the stranger, the foreigner and the undeserving to His table.
- Confession: Are there prejudicial behaviors or attitudes towards others of which you need to confess? Ask the Lord to reveal in you ANY attitude or mindset that dishonors Him.
- Intercession: To whom have you been called to model the mercy, grace, generosity and provision of the Lord? Lift their name in prayer!

