



RUTH

— grafted in

God's Character in Boaz's Life

Ruth 2:17-23



Overview

- Major turning point in the book
 - Ruth returns from a long day of harvesting
 - Naomi is surprised at Ruth's haul, but more surprised at Boaz
- God's Character is shown in Boaz's Life
 - God's Kindness
 - God's Provision
- God's hand in this story continues



God's Character Shown

- When studying OT, we can see glimpses of Christ
 - OT doesn't provide heroes, but rather points to Jesus
 - Boaz's life illustrated God's character
- God's Character (Who He is) drives His behavior
- Who we are drives what we do.
- When we look to what Christ has done for us, only then can we act Christ-like. 1 John 4:7-12, 19;



God gives abundantly (vv. 17-18, 23)

- Brought back an ephah of barley
 - Around 26 quarts
 - Way more than she should have gleaned
- Ruth brought food home AFTER she had been satisfied
- God gives generously and abundantly to us
 - Eph 3:20; James 1:5; Matt. 7:11; Luke 11:13
- Are we showing God's character by our generosity?



God gives hope to depressed (vv.19-20)

- Naomi's attitude changes once she hears R
- What is Hope? Hope is the confident trust in God's promises and His goodness, even when they are not yet seen or fulfilled.
- Hope necessitates both DESIRE and EXPECTATION.
(Hebrews 11:1; Romans 15:13)
- Naomi's response to Hope is praise.
- How can God's promises/faithfulness bring you hope



God protects the weak (vv. 21-23)

- Ruth could have been verbally, physically, or sexually assaulted in other fields.
- Misnomer that Christianity is anti woman or somehow oppressive towards women.
- Jesus consistently protected / elevated women:
 - Woman caught in adultery: John 8:1-11
 - The Bleeding Woman: Mark 5:25-34
- How are we protecting the vulnerable in our lives?



God makes foreigners family (v. 20)

- Ruth's status of foreigner and as "outside of the family" is mentioned over and over again.
- Moabite, foreigner, and daughter in law: 11 times
- Reinforcement to the reader that Ruth did not belong.
- God takes those who don't belong and make them belong.
- Eph 2:11-22
- Do we treat foreigners & outcasts poorly?



Questions & Reflections

- Worship
 - *Like Naomi, where can you rejoice because of the Hope you have? Where has God answered prayers that seemed impossible?*
- Confession
 - *In what area does your life not imitate God's character? Do you give abundantly, protect the vulnerable, welcome the foreigner, and encourage the depressed?*
- Intercession
 - *Who do you need to pray for that is depressed, vulnerable, and lacks resources?*



So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22