

Not a couple days in Bethlehem and Ruth's light from within her heart shines forth. Her heart is clearly shone in her love for her mother-in-law and wants to take care of her, if nothing else (1 Timothy 5:8).

Ruth 2

Ruth Meets Boaz

1 Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.

She gets back home and suddenly remembers Boaz. KJV calls Boaz and "mighty man of wealth". The Hebrew adjectives to describe Boaz means "champion, warrior, strong, protector of the weak, valiant, trained" and "rich, wealthy". From this verse, he is a man of great reputation and quite well known.

2 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

Naomi spoke of Boaz to Ruth and Ruth sees this as a way to provide for her family. Understand that it wasn't just for her to get a job. "Gleaning" is essentially Jewish social services. The corners of the field were to be reserved for the poor, widows, orphans and immigrants to gather leftover standing grains as well as anything that was left behind in the working field.

glean - The term "glean" appears 12 times in this chapter. It is weird that God has made mention of helping the poor, immigrant, widows and orphans more times than I can count. He might be serious about it. He might have a special place in his heart for those people. He just might...

in whose sight I shall find favor - Ruth knows that she cannot do anything without the owner's permission (Gen 34:11, Num 32:5). Jesus said in **John 8:28 So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.**

3 So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech.

Did she? Did she really come upon the field of Boaz? Granted, she knew of Boaz and was looking for his fields but God has infinite + one ways of communicated with us whether it be through His word, gut feeling, images, words, whispers, scenes or in Ruth's case, a nudging. She is a foreigner in this land but the Holy Spirit was there to guide her.

4 And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you!" And they answered, "The Lord bless you."

Again, every blessing was given to others and not for themselves.

Already, we see that Boaz is not only a man of worth, wealth, valiant and might but we see here that he comes into the office and immediately greets his workers by blessing them. His workers immediately respond with blessing as well.

It is why God calls us to honor our leaders and employers even despite them being Christian. Your work ethic and giving honor to your boss is the seed that starts to soften their hearts and turns towards God. God does all the work. All you got to do is be obedient to Him.

5 Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" 6 And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.

Unnamed servant - None of my commentaries mention this but I heard it suggested that this is unnamed servant just might be the Holy Spirit. Jesus spoke of the Spirit in **John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.**

As we start to put the pieces of the story together, take a moment and consider the following parallels to the characters in Ruth:

Boaz - Jesus Christ

Naomi - Israel

Ruth - Gentile

servant - Holy Spirit

These parallels will reveal themselves a bit more as we progress. But think about it as we pertain to this verse. How appropriate is it that it is the servant that brings together Ruth and Jesus Christ or... the Holy Spirit that brings together the Gentiles to Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 2:12** states that is only by the Spirit of God is when we can understand the things are freely given to us by God. By His Spirit, we know of the gift of salvation that is in Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

7 She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest."

The unnamed servants speaks well of Ruth's work ethic.

8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women.

my daughter - Boaz address Ruth as though she is much younger than Boaz. We can gather that Boaz could be 20 years or more her senior

Boaz instructs her not to go to another field to glean. Stay here and I will provide for you. Jesus said in **John 6:35 "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.** Boaz tells Ruth not to go to other fields is just when God tells us not to go to other rivers and streams in Jeremiah 2 where God is our living water.

We spoke of the importance of having good fellowship and community which Elimelech and his family were denied by moving to Moab. Not a day or two after Ruth arrives in

Israel, Boaz provides Ruth a community and fellowship with young women who will look after her and make sure she is okay.

9 Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn."

Boaz has already prepped the young men not to take advantage of her. He drives this point forward by having the men draw her water whereas it would have been custom for Ruth (being a Gentile woman) to draw water for the men.

10 Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?" 11 But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before.

Boaz is still human and cannot simply look at one's heart and know it is true. However, it is quite evident by Ruth's works that her heart is true. **James 2:14-26** speaks of faith without works is dead. Let me make it clear as the word of God does is that it is not because of what we do produce faith but it is faith in God and

12 The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!"

The Lord repay you - Again, blessing of others

whose wings you have come to take refuge - Ps 36:7,57:1,91:4 are all "take refuge under your wings and shadow of your wings. Jesus takes this step further and prophesies the destruction of Jerusalem in **Matthew 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!**

13 Then she said, "I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants."

Jesus promises the Holy Spirit who, among other things, comforts us and gives us peace.

14 And at mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over.

Noticed how Boaz doesn't address her not being a servant. When we are servant of Christ Jesus, He comforts us and provide for us.

15 When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. 16 And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her."

Again, Boaz provides for her and gives her protection.

17 So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. 18 And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied. 19 And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz." 20 And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!" Naomi also said to her, "The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers." 21 And Ruth the Moabite said, "Besides, he said to me, 'You shall keep close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'" 22 And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted." 23 So she kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law.