

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

[Rth 2:1-23 NKJV] 1 There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name [was] Boaz. 2 So Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after [him] in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." 3 Then she left, 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 family of Elimelech. 4 Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The LORD [be] with you!" And they answered him, "The LORD bless you!" 5 Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman [is] this?"

6 So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, "It [is] the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. 7 "And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house." 8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women. 9 "[Let] your eyes [be] on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn." 10 So she fell on her face, bowed down 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 And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you

have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and [how] you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. 12 "The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge." 13 Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants." 14 Now Boaz said to her at mealtime, "Come here, and eat of the bread, and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched [grain] to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back. 15 And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. 16 "Also let [grain] from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave

[it] that she may glean, and do not rebuke her." 17 So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. 18 Then she took [it] up and went into the city, and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. So she brought out and gave to her what she had kept back after she had been satisfied. 19 And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one 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 Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed [be] he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "This man [is] a relation of ours, one of our close relatives." 21 Ruth the Moabitess said, "He also said to me, 'You shall stay 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, and that people do not meet you in any other field." 23 So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

So, last Wednesday night, as we began our study through the book of Ruth, we were introduced to a family that was going through some tough times.

However, it wasn't only the family that was going through some tough times, it was the entire nation of Israel that was experiencing tough times – and it was all a result of their disobedience to God.

I pointed last week to the last verse in the Book of Judges which tells us that everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

So because of this,

There was famine in the land –

And we saw how Elimelech hoping to find a brighter future for him and his family, moved them to the land of the Moabites of all places.

And the problem was that they never sought the council of God – they never prayed about it.

And the family settled in Moab and consequently their sons marry Moabite woman.

Their lives didn't get better – they eventually got worse.

Elimelech dies and so do the two sons – leaving three widows to fend for themselves.

After losing everything Naomi hears that there was bread in the Bethlehem, which I pointed out means the house of bread, Naomi desires to go back and we see Ruth's allegiance to both Naomi and the God of Naomi as she is willing to leave her past behind her.

Naomi returns home to Bethlehem a bitter woman – being a recipient to the chastisement of God.

You might remember that she didn't want to be called Naomi anymore – which means “pleasant”, she wanted to be called “Mara” which means bitter –

She was bitter at the chastisement of God upon her life – it is bad enough that she has lost everything, her husband, her sons, her possessions – now she has a Moabite woman by her side.

So let's look closer at our text here in chapter two as we are now introduced to the third main character of this book, Boaz.

[Rth 2:1 NKJV] 1 There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name [was] Boaz.

So, here we are introduced to Boaz – he is a relative, a blood relative, a kinsmen.

If you read ahead, you find out the Boaz becomes Ruth's kinsmen redeemer in the same way that Jesus Christ became our Kinsmen Redeemer.

And we will get more in depth regarding the Kinsmen Redeemer requirements over the next two weeks.

[Rth 2:2 NKJV] 2 So Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after [him] in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

I made the point last week that being a widow during ancient times was extremely hard. Your husband was really your livelihood, so if something happened to him, the widow would have to be dependent upon the generosity of the people for her livelihood.

Ruth and Naomi are hungry and here we see Ruth take the initiative and actually do something about it.

She takes a step of faith.

Notice that it doesn't say that Naomi and Ruth sat there day and night waiting for the Lord to supply their physical needs.

For the longest time, I had an individual at one of my bible studies who every week would ask for the same prayer request.

This person was down on their luck and his prayer request was that God would provide for him a job – as he was unemployed.

After about 5 months of asking the same prayer request week after week, I asked him if he had applied anywhere and he said no. Are you sending resumes out? No.

Are you actively searching? Well not really.

Church, God is not going to do the things that He has already perfectly equipped us to do on our own.

God expects us to take those steps of faith, and if our path takes us out of His will, He nudges us back on the correct path.

Ruth took a step of faith as she went to go glean.

Turn with me to the book of Deut 24,

In Deut 24, we are giving an insight on how God set up a system to take care of the poor.

[Deu 24:19-22 NKJV] 19 "When you reap your harvest in your field, and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. 20 "When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow. 21 "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not glean [it] afterward; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow. 22 "And you shall

remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I command you to do this thing.

Remember that the book of Deuteronomy was written while the Children of Israel were wandering the desert as they were on their way to the Promised Land.

They had been slaves for many years under Egyptian rule – however, they were now going into a land where there was going to be an abundance, the Land of Milk and Honey.

So God wants to make sure that during this these times of abundance when they have something, they were supposed to leave something for those that didn't.

They were supposed to take care of their own.

When you harvested the wheat or the barley, you were allowed one swing of the sickle. Anything that was left was reserved for gleaning.

While you were gathering, if you dropped anything on the floor – you could not pick it up. It was reserved for those that were gleaning.

In the book of Leviticus, it tells us that they were supposed to leave the corners and the ends unharvested as well for those that were gleaning.

This was the welfare system that God had set up for His people. It was more like a workfare program than a welfare program as it wasn't a simple handout – they still had to go work for it.

I asked you to underline the word favor at the end of verse two. The Hebrew word is that same that is used for grace.

[Rth 2:3 NKJV] 3 Then she left, 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 family of Elimelech.

Church, there is no coincidence when it comes to God – He is sovereign over all things.

Bethlehem, like I mentioned earlier, was the house of bread – so that means that there were many fields of barley and wheat surrounding it.

And it just happens that Ruth walks into the one that is owned by Boaz.

[Rth 2:4 NKJV] 4 Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The LORD [be] with you!" And they answered him, "The LORD bless you!"

Here in verse four, we are provided with a good representation of the heart and character of Boaz.

It appears that he genuinely cares for his servants and his servants care for him as well.

Remember, this is happening during a time in the period of the judges when the majority of people were doing what was right in their own eyes – however, not Boaz.

[Rth 2:5-7 NKJV] 5 Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman [is] this?" 6 So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, "It [is] the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. 7 "And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house."

It appears that the young Moabite woman has caught the attention of Boaz.

Whose young woman is this? = Whose the fox?

And the unnamed servant provides his master with all the details.

Who she is as well as her work ethic?

Ruth asked permission to glean the field even though God had commanded that she was entitled to glean being that she was a widow.

[Rth 2:8-9 NKJV] 8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women. 9 "[Let] your eyes [be] on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn."

In verse 8 and 9, we see the kindness of Boaz upon Ruth as he knows the Lord will bless her if she stays there.

There, she will have companionship

There she will be safe – as Boaz tells her that she told all the guys to leave her alone.

And there she will not go thirsty as Boaz has offered her to drink from vessels that had already been filled by the men.

And this message that Boaz is speaking to Ruth is the same message that the greater Boaz would tell us today.

Don't glean on other fields; you will be blessed here – gleaning on the fields of grace.

Think about how many people walk away from the church to glean on other fields because seek experiences or a slanted doctrine that will fit their lifestyle.

By gleaning on the fields of grace, we too are invited to drink freely from the wells of salvation.

[Isa 12:1-3 NKJV] 1 And in that day you will say: "O LORD, I will praise You; Though You were angry with me, Your anger is

turned away, and You comfort me. 2 Behold, God [is] my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For YAH, the LORD, [is] my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.' " 3 Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation.

Let's move on to verse 10 in our text,

[Rth 2:10-12 NKJV] 10 So she fell on her face, bowed down 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 And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and [how] you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. 12 "The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be

given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."

Ruth doesn't understand how she has found grace in the eyes of Boaz. After all, she is not even an Israelite; she is a Moabite – a nation that is cursed by God.

Over the past few weeks, we were looking at Habakkuk and I also mentioned Job, how they wanted to know why the bad things were happening to them. Here we see the opposite as Ruth is questioning why good things are happening to her?

We never see Ruth question why her husband died.

We never see Ruth question the reason for the hardships in her life.

What was Boaz answer to Ruth???

I know you!!!

Church, we are just like Ruth – we have been shown amazing grace by our own Redeemer.

Undeserved grace. Why?

We find our answer in the book of Romans 8.

[Rom 8:29-30 NKJV] 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined [to be] conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

It all begins with the foreknowledge of God.

He says, I know you

I know your hearts and I am choosing you. I am electing you.

I've chosen to be gracious unto you.

[Rth 2:13-16 NKJV] 13 Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants." 14 Now Boaz said to her at mealtime, "Come here, and eat of the bread, and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched [grain] to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back. 15 And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. 16 "Also let [grain] from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave [it] that she may glean, and do not rebuke her."

In these four verses, we see the continued kindness shown by Boaz to Ruth.

He invites her to partake of bread with him.

Then he also allows her to glean in the good parts of the field and even had his servants purposely drop grain so that she would be able to glean it – remember, if something was dropped, they couldn't pick it up again.

You see, Boaz wanted to bless Ruth, but he didn't want to dishonor her dignity by making her a charity case. So, he allowed some grain to fall, supposedly on accident, so that she could pick it up.

Now, the other servants could have protested that this wasn't fair. But church, we must remember that grace isn't fair.

Grace is unmerited, undeserved, unearned favor.

Grace is simply God dropping buckets and truckloads of good things upon us.

[Rth 2:17-20 NKJV] 17 So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah (about 5-6 gallons) of barley. 18 Then she took [it] up

and went into the city, and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. So she brought out and gave to her what she had kept back after she had been satisfied. 19 And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one 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 Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed [be] he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "This man [is] a relation of ours, **one of our close relatives.**"

After a long day gleaning, Ruth brings back the barley but also some of the food that saved from her meal with Boaz.

So here, she is sharing the blessing with Naomi.

And as she is sharing, she is giving all the details to Naomi about the kindness shown to her by Boaz.

At the end of verse 20, we see Naomi acknowledge that Boaz was a close relative. And again, we will see the significance of this in the next two weeks.

[Rth 2:21-23 NKJV] 21 Ruth the Moabite said, "He also said to me, 'You shall stay 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, and that people do not meet you in any other field." 23 So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

Up to now, Ruth has demonstrated tremendous character.

However, at the beginning of verse 21, Ruth is addressed as Ruth the Moabite and I believe the reason is that she acts like a Moabite by the statement she makes to Naomi. He also said to me, 'You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'

Boaz never made that statement. He said for her to stay with his young women in verse 9.

And Naomi is no dummy and catches it and corrects her.

She tells her to stay with the young women and she does.

Now, I don't want us to miss out on the change in Naomi.

She was bitter at the end of chapter 1 but now we see a change in her as she is now proclaiming blessings.

Why because now she has hope.

And church, Jesus Christ – our living hope, can also turn our bitterness into blessings when we walk by faith.

Amen.

Let's pray...

When a genuine fear of God governs the hearts of the believers, then we will be able to acknowledge His presence at all times and in all things



CALVARY
S a n t a C r u z