

## Ruth 2:12-23

Two weeks ago, we began studying Ruth 2 and we see God beginning to move in Ruth, in Boaz and, ultimately, He will move Naomi back to Himself.

Brief recap – Ruth voluntarily went out into the field to glean food for herself and her mother in law, Naomi. Gleaning is a concept mentioned 11 times in this chapter of Ruth; it's a concept God wants us to fully understand. And since we know God cares for the poor and the needy, He expects us, as His believers, to do the same (Acts 20:35). Remember, Jewish law required farmers not to fully harvest, but to leave something for the poor, the orphans and widows. It was never God's intent that food should be given without working for it **Lev 19:10, 2 Thes 3:10**

Ruth "happened" to glean in a field belonging to Boaz, a wealthy and influential landowner who lived in Bethlehem. Having a wonderful working relationship with his field bosses, Boaz "happened" to stop by the field and immediately noticed Ruth. Confirming Ruth's credentials, Boaz was drawn to her because of her beauty, her reputation of caring for her mother in law and her work ethic.

Immediately, Boaz's introduction as a "Goel" (kinsman redeemer **Leviticus 25:47-50**) as the chieftain or head of the clan of Elimelech. Both Naomi and Ruth were of the clan of Elimelech. Even his name, Boaz, reflects strength – "in him there is strength". Boaz is also sometimes seen as a type by many commentators.

And Boaz is the son of whom? Just tying up loose ends of the Scarlet thread showing how God's plan comes together for the good to those who believe on Him and for whom He has purpose (Rom 8:25)

We see Boaz providing refreshment, protection and companionship for Ruth as she gleans in his field, the same as God provides for us when we stay in His field.

Boaz has now spoken with Ruth and he knows exactly who she is! Let's pick up in Verse 11 just for context and also Verse 12

### REDEEMING LOVE – CHAPTER 2, DAY 4

- **ISAIAH 12:2 [Isa 12:2 NKJV] 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.' "** –

**Interestingly, another Bible Study currently working on Isaiah is exactly in this place, Isaiah Chapter 12. Chapter 11 and 12 are the first two chapters where Isaiah is not prophesying to Judah (and king Ahaz) about their coming downfall. Chapter 11 gives Judah hope and speaks to a remnant (Shear Jushab – Isaiah's oldest son) and a coming Messianic kingdom in a perfect world. This chapter (12) is only 6 verses long – and this is part of the "Call to Praise" the Lord and share His deeds among the nations with emphasis on the Lord's greatness and all the glorious things He has done. Take a quick look this week at Isaiah Chapter 12 – see if you feel compelled to praise the Lord for all his greatness and all the glorious things He has done!**

**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."**

- **Encouragement for Ruth from Boaz just as if she were a new convert (and she was!)**
  - **She had put her trust in the God of Israel, leaving behind Moab's pagan gods**

- She'd left everyone she'd known in Moab (friends and family)
- She was new to Bethlehem (she really didn't know anyone but Naomi)
- Her self-esteem was very low in her own eyes – she was “just a foreigner”
- She found protection under the wings of God. **Such beautiful imagery!**
- **I have since read an imagery about being under the wings of the Cherubim on the holy of holies, which was quite visionary for me also**

And just to reiterate from 2 weeks ago:

- Similarly, older Christians should be like Boaz to younger Christians like Ruth – Spurgeon tells us we should “look out for these younger converts, speaking godly words to them and comfortable words that will make them cherished and strengthened”

We should also continue to think about giving of our time and other resources that will help meet the needs of others to encourage them or share in lifting burdens. Not all needs are met monetarily

- [Act 20:35 NKJV] 35 "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "
- **Proverbs 12:25 Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad.**

**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."**

- Let me find favor in your sight is the same as saying what? (thank you)
- Her expression of humility and her acknowledgement of Boaz's kindness in spite of her status as a foreigner is eloquent
- In V10 we see Ruth bowing before Boaz with her face to the ground; this was a common gesture in the ancient Near East. Boaz was an important, prominent man and she was of much lower social rank, a foreigner.
- This shows both respect and honor as Ruth accepts his favor towards her
- Favor (chen – Hebrew) is used 3 times in this chapter (V2, 10, 13); it means graciousness and kindness
- **El Roi – The God who sees** (Is it appropriate to ask where in Scripture we've heard Him called El Roi? So it will tie back to Genesis and Hagar? – Gen 16;13 – He knows our every circumstance)
- Boaz was moved (God moves Boaz) to show favor, grace and kindness to Ruth
  - What is your response when someone shows you favor, grace, generosity or kindness? How have you responded?
- God extends His grace and favor to us through the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. Do we bow before Him and thank Him for His undeserved favor and grace?
  - [Act 20:35 NKJV] 35 "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "
- This is an area of repentance for me – confess and pray right now
- Boaz is an example for us (remember, we're in the downward spiral of the time of Judges, where people did what was right in their own eyes – yet Boaz has chosen a different lifestyle) – he was living counter to his culture
- Have you chosen to live counter to your culture?

- We should be seeking Him daily, obeying His will according to His word, whether it's "politically correct" or popular today
- Can others see through our righteous living that we are righteous women?

**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.**

- Is Boaz possibly introducing Ruth to something new? If not new, it wasn't the same bread and vinegar she was used to in Moab!
- He invited her to fully share and partake of that meal – and sop or the dip was an honor offered by the host of the meal
  - Remember Jesus in the upper room when he offered Judas the sop as Judas sat in a place of honor at the Passover meal?
- Eat of the bread, dip your bread in the vinegar
- She sat with the reapers, he (Boaz!) passed parched grain to her
- **Boaz didn't take a place of honor. He sat with the workers and Ruth.**
- She ate and was satisfied and kept some back
  - Do we see God moving here in Ruth and perhaps awakening romance toward Boaz in her? She's been a widow a long time
  - Keeping some back also indicates while she was satisfied, there was more than enough to satiate her; she was compelled to take some to Naomi, her mother in law as well
- **Their first date!**
- Let's look at other scriptures regarding Jesus, feeding and being satisfied
  - Mark 6:34-44 we read how Jesus miraculously fed a large crowd of people who had been listening to His teaching all day long. Late in the day, people were hungry, but had brought nothing with them to eat. With only 5 loaves and 2 fish Jesus gave thanks to God for His provision of food and began breaking the loaves and dividing the fish.
  - 12 baskets full of leftovers were gathered up after the meal. During Jesus' ministry, a similar event is recorded in Mark 8:1-9. Here, leftovers were also gathered up after everyone had eaten and was satisfied
- God has blessed us by providing food for our physical bodies. We are to eat only until we are satisfied. If we have an abundance of food, we are to be good stewards of our leftovers. We do not want to waste anything that God has given to us.
- Notice a few things in God's word that are telling about Ruth
  - She was satisfied; she responded to Boaz generous offer to partake
  - She was not in with the reapers, she sat beside them and ate just as they ate
  - She was satisfied; in the same way, those outside the Kingdom of God and its promises can sit among the reapers, at the invitation of Jesus and by faith they **can eat and be satisfied**
- What was satisfied for Ruth? (heart, hope, soul, emptiness – elicit group response)

## REDEEMING LOVE – CHAPTER 2, DAY 4 QUESTION 1

**How does Boaz continue to show kindness to Ruth?**

**He makes her part of the group and offers her bread with a vinegar dip**

**Question 1A – Who actually served Ruth the parched grain? Boaz!**

Question 1A1 – to what extent did he serve her the grain? To the fullest extent, to the point she was satisfied

- [Isa 55:1-2 NKJV] 1 "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend money for [what is] not bread, And your wages for [what] does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat [what is] good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance.
- They will delight in abundance

**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.

- **Sheaves were bundles of grain stalks tied together for transport to the threshing floor.**
- Boaz's command here of his young men is far greater than God's requirement in Leviticus 19:9-10
- What makes his command over and above God's word?

**16** Also let grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her."

- This is beautiful! Boaz wanted to bless Ruth, but didn't want to dishonor her dignity by making her a charity case. So he allowed some of the grain to fall, seemingly by accident, so she would be sure to pick it up

#### REDEEMING LOVE – CHAPTER 2 DAY 4 – QUESTION 2

Record Boaz's words to his servants after Ruth rose to glean "Let her glean, even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. Also, you shall purposely pull out some from the bundles for her, and leave it for her to glean, and do not reproach her"

Reproach (kalam – Heb) – insult, shame, humiliate, blush, dishonored, confounded

#### REDEEMING LOVE – READ THE SHADOW BOX

**17** So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.

- God blessed her, people were generous to her, she worked hard
- It was a long day, sun up to sun down
- She stooped for every sheave she picked up, every grainhead she collected
- She took the grain home and threshed it and winnowed it
- She was nourished by the grain
- An ephah was about 5-1/2 gallons or 22 litres of threshed grain **weighing about 30-40 pounds**; add to that what she'd held back at her meal for Naomi – it was a fruitful day for Ruth and for Naomi, plus God is on the move working His plan

#### REDEEMING LOVE – CHAPTER 2 DAY 4 QUESTION 3 & 4

How long did Ruth glean in the field and what does this say about her?

From early morning until evening and it says she was a hard worker

Prov 31:27b – she does not eat of the bread of idleness

Idleness – atslouth – Heb – sluggishness, laziness

#### REDEEMING LOVE – READ THE BOX

Question 4 – After Ruth "beat out what she had gleaned", how much barley did she have? An ephah

## REDEEMING LOVE – READ THE SHADOW BOX

**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

- There were tangible results for Ruth's effort she put forth
- Add to that the leftovers from her meal that she brought for Naomi and we have the picture of care and thoughtfulness toward Naomi
- This verse is often used as a reflection of hard work, divine provision, mutual support that emphasizes the ongoing relationship between Ruth and Naomi and the importance of sharing God's blessings with others
- We should be encouraged to think beyond ourselves and look for ways to bless others who are close to us and mirror God's heart of community and mutual care
- Hard work and abundance are what's seen in this verse

## REDEEMING LOVE – CHAPTER 2 DAY 5 QUESTION 1

Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Where and to whom did she go at the end of the day? Home to Naomi

**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."

- Interestingly, Naomi inquires of Ruth where she went today and whose field she was working to be so significantly blessed with 22 litres of barley!
- And God is on the move again; Ruth shares with Naomi she worked for Boaz today
  - Not an insignificant detail, plus this sets up the rest of the story as Naomi recognizes Boaz as a potential kinsman redeemer who could provide security and support for both Ruth and herself
- Where have you gleaned today? What good have we done with our time and our lives? Are we accomplishing good with our days?
- Naomi prays a blessing over Boaz "Blessed be the one who took notice of you"

**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."

- This is Miss "call me Mara" – and her change of heart is significant from when she first arrived back in Bethlehem (it's good to see the changes in her because of what Ruth did and how God moves)
  - God used Ruth to turn Naomi's bitterness into gratitude, her unbelief into faith and her despair into hope
- We briefly touched on Levirate marriage in our last session, but let's take a closer look now at exactly how that works
- The wife of the deceased went with the property, thus the kinsman redeemer had to marry her and bring up children bearing the name of the deceased
- They would then inherit the property and the family name and family possessions would continue to be theirs
  - This all hinges on the Law found in Deut 25:5-10
- Levir (Latin) "a husband's brother" and while the Book of Ruth doesn't explain how Ruth's husband, Malon, was connected with his father's property so that Ruth had to be included in the purchase, it's yet again the hand of God moving in Ruth, Boaz and Naomi's lives
- When and why the Jewish people connected the law of the kinsman redeemer with the law of the levirate marriage isn't clear to us, but it was the custom in Ruth's time.

## REDEEMING LOVE – CHAPTER 2 DAY 5 QUESTION 2

2. What did Naomi say indicating that she was pleased by what Ruth had brought home? (V19a) “May he who took notice of you be blessed”

## REDEEMING LOVE – CHAPTER 2 DAY 5 QUESTION 1A – moved here, can go back to Q1

- A. Look down at v23b. just in case there might be any possible doubt, what was Ruth and Naomi’s living arrangement? She dwelt with Naomi, her mother in law
1. Most of us have homes, responsibilities and loved ones to return to after a long, hard day. Read 2 Cor 5:1-8. If we fully grasp what is waiting for us, what home would we prefer?
  - [2Co 5:1-8 KJV] 1 For we know that if our earthly house of [this] tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: 3 If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. 4 For we that are in [this] tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. 5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing [is] God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. 6 Therefore [we are] always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: 7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) 8 We are confident, [I say], and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

## REDEEMING LOVE – READ THE SHADOW BOX

### REDEEMING LOVE -

- A. What impressed Naomi even more (v19b,20)? His name is Boaz and “Blessed be he of the Lord, who has not forsaken his kindness to the living and the dead” And “This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives

## REDEEMING LOVE – SHADOW BOX 2

Relatives: here Naomi used the Hebrew word goel, “kinsman redeemer” Ryrie Study Bible

## REDEEMING LOVE – READ THE BOX

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.' "

- Boaz brings protection and provision, just like Jesus does for us.
- Ruth shares more long term information with Naomi indicating Boaz’s desire to keep Ruth protected and to keep both her and Naomi provided for
- We see now this would finish the barley season gleaning for Ruth
- Again, barley season went from April through half of May with wheat season starting in June thru July

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."

- Naomi encourages Ruth to stick with Boaz’s young women for companionship and safety and discourages her from gleaning in any other field

## REDEEMING LOVE – CHAPTER 2 – DAY 5 – QUESTION 3

### 3 After Ruth finishes sharing all the details of Boaz's instructions to her, how does Naomi respond?

Naomi encourages Ruth to stay close to Boaz's young women for companionship and to stay in Boaz's field to glean (do not wander)

A Just imagine how encouraged Naomi was at this point! Even though she told her friends to call her Mara (bitter) that name is never again recorded in Scripture. It's as if God is saying, "that name just won't do." Isa 62:1-5 describes Zion's glory and a new name given to her.

- [Isa 62:1-5 NKJV] 1 For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, And for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, Until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, And her salvation as a lamp [that] burns. 2 The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, And all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the LORD will name. 3 You shall also be a crown of glory In the hand of the LORD, And a royal diadem In the hand of your God. 4 You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, Nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; But you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; For the LORD delights in you, And your land shall be married. 5 For [as] a young man marries a virgin, [So] shall your sons marry you; And [as] the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, [So] shall your God rejoice over you.
- Hephzibah – my delight is in her, the queen of King Hezekiah and mother of Menasseh (King 21:1), a name for Jerusalem (Isa 62:4) – a fanciful name for Palestine
- Beulah – to marry, to lord over (husband), to rule over and to be married

This speaks of God's unwavering commitment to Jerusalem and Zion, God will not be silent or rest until their righteousness shines like the dawn and their salvation like a blazing torch. The nations will see this vindication and glory and Jerusalem will be given a new name by the Lord.

It will no longer be called Forsaken or Desolate, but will be called "my delight is in Her" and "Married" reflecting God's delight in her and the marriage of her land. The imagery of a young man marrying a young woman and the joy of the bridegroom over the bride is used here to describe God's joy over Jerusalem

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.

[Rev 2:17 NKJV] 17 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives [it]."

What was the biggest eye opener in today's study for you? What character traits do you see in Boaz, Naomi or Ruth that need developing in your own life? What did you learn about God?