

Read Chapter 2 intro in REDEEMING LOVE on page 1 in box

Ruth 2

Just to reiterate Naomi and Ruth's situation, we don't know where they were staying, with other relatives or friends. We do know, however, they were poor. Likely none of us has ever been in a situation where we didn't know where our next meal would come from. We must remember to reflect God's heart and give to the poor.

Most widows in ancient times lived in poverty; Naomi and Ruth would need to eat to survive.

REDEEMING LOVE – Chapter 2, Day One, Pg 2 - Write out Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the LORD GOD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation

1 There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz.

REDEEMING LOVE – (Chapter 2 Day One, Page 2,1)

1 – A. Boaz

**What two things are we told about him? (Chapter 2 Day One, page 2, 1.A) wealthy, influential
Define KINSMAN**

Read the gray box – Ryrie Study Bible

- **Gibbor (Hebrew) = mighty; Boaz was powerful, capable, prominent, “a mighty man of valor”**
- **Naomi had a kinsman redeemer through the Levirate relationship of her husband, Elimelech
Levir = a husband's brother, not related to the tribe or person of Levi
Deut. 25:5-10 - **Read****
- **During the time Naomi and family had gone to Moab, Boaz, who stayed in Bethlehem stayed and the Lord provided abundantly for him. He became well to do. He remained faithful in hard times to a faithful God.**
- **Nothing in the Book of Ruth indicates those who stayed in Bethlehem suffered from famine**
- **Elimelech did not confer with God prior to taking his family to Moab – he likely justified bad choice based on extenuating circumstances**
 - **We also tend to justify bad choices we make based on difficult circumstances**
- **Introduction of the word “kinsman” (goel- Hebrew) – a special family representative, more than just a relative, Boaz was the family chieftain – a tribal chief or head of clan**
- **Both Naomi and Boaz were of the clan of Elimelech**
- **If a relative sold himself or property, a kinsmen could redeem it **Leviticus 25:47-50** read**
- **Boaz means “In him there is strength”. One of the two pillars of the temple (1 Kings 7:21)**
- **Let's look back at how the laws of inheritance came about. We can thank a lot of it to the 5 daughters of a man named Zelophehad in Numbers 27. They only had women in their family, due to all the boys dying. So, they petitioned Moses to provide an inheritance in the**

Promised Land. Moses consulted God, and it was established in Numbers 27:11 that the land would go to the nearest relative.

2 So Ruth the Moabitess 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."

- Respectfully, Ruth asks Naomi's permission to go out and glean amongst other impoverished people (widows, orphans, strangers)
- Glean is mentioned 11 times in this chapter
 - [Lev 19:10 NKJV] 10 'And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather [every] grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I [am] the LORD your God.
- Social assistance program in Israel allowing the poor and needy to glean for themselves
- Farmers were required to have a generous heart, plus the poor and needy were required to work for their own needs and maintain their dignity
- It was God who blessed with bountiful harvests and gave to the poor through Israel and the Mosaic Law for the needy. God never intended to give "handouts"; people had to work to eat
 - [2Th 3:10 NKJV] 10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.
 - Some personal application: Since God obviously cares for the poor and needy, how can we help the poor and needy in our current society? Extras from your garden? Rides? Meals? Babysitting? Help with yard work or repairs?
 - [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.' "
- True or False - When we're convinced God will provide for our needs, we find freedom to give. We know God will take care of us as we take care of others

REDEEMING LOVE – Day One (2, 2A,1)

2 – To glean food to provide for Naomi and herself

She hoped to find favor (meaning she would humbly ask to glean rather than depend on charity

Day One 2 – A- she would glean showing her humility and determination and showing her modesty and willingness to work for food rather than depend on charity

2A1 – "Go, my daughter."

3 – (See Leviticus 10:9-10 above)

[Lev 23:22 NKJV] 22 'When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field when you reap, nor shall you gather any gleaning from your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I [am] the LORD your God.' "

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.

- Ruth sets out on her own initiative; Naomi never asked her to go
- Obviously, she was a hard worker – she could have hung out with Naomi without taking initiative
- The hand of God is at work, guiding Ruth to the part of the field that belongs to Boaz. God was in the “happened”. There are not accidents in God’s kingdom.
- I wish we knew how Boaz was related to Elimelech, but all we know is he was somehow related
- When we are walking in the Spirit we can see God’s invisible hand in retrospect; we need to avoid trying to see His hand ahead of us – that could be troublesome

REDEEMING LOVE – DAY TWO (Page 2, 1)

1 – Ruth “happened to come”

- **What does Proverbs 16:9 say? (Day Two, page 2, 1.A) The Lord directs our steps**

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!"

- **Again, the hand of God that would lead Boaz to that field to check in with his workers while Ruth was there**
- **It’s His providence that Ruth was not resting in the worker’s shelter or had not gone home to Naomi because her work was done or she was tired – she was working in the field gleaning**
- **When we are committed to God what happens in our lives happens by appointment and not by accident**
 - **Ruth didn’t know what field to go to nor did she know who owned it. She did not “happen” upon this field by random chance; it was God’s sovereignty that guided Ruth to work and glean in Boaz’s field**
 - **God would provide for Ruth and Naomi’s needs through Boaz; they were vulnerable and God, without their realization, was guiding them and meeting their needs**
 - **It’s never “by luck” or “by coincidence” when we’re believers**
- **Can you give an example in your life where God was clearly at work, guiding you to accomplish His plan and purpose for you?**

REDEEMING LOVE – DAY TWO, question 2

Consider how Boaz addresses his workers in verse 4. What does this reveal about him?

The greeting Boaz gives to the reapers shows Boaz’s character – he had a good working relationship with his workers and they with him

We see mutual respect from his workers who respond, "The Lord bless you!" Their greeting indicates God is the first thing on their minds; that He is the one who gives the harvest.

- **2A [Eph 6:5-9 NKJV] 5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; 6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone**

does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether [he is] a slave or free. 9 And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

V5 We're exhorted to be bondservants

V7 With goodwill doing service

V8 Knowing we will receive the same from the Lord

REDEEMING LOVE 2-A-1 9A Given to masters (bosses) also

- B – because the Master (God) is also in heaven and shows no partiality-
- Practice Isaiah 12:2 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the LORD GOD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation

5 Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"

REDEEMING LOVE (Day Two, page 3, question 3)

- What does Boaz immediately want to know in verse 5? Whose young woman is this?
- It's obvious here in the story that Boaz has taken notice of Ruth.

REDEEMING LOVE (Day Two, page 3, question 3.A)

- Why do you think Boaz was so interested in her? Beauty? Diligence? Foreigner?
- Ruth had been working in the field and likely felt a little dust and funk, but again, Boaz took notice
- Ruth was a Proverbs 31 woman; she'd gotten up early and worked hard all day long with few breaks – she worked hard not just for herself, but for her mother-in-law as well.
- We know the town was excited when they'd heard Naomi was returning and is it possible word had gotten out Naomi didn't return alone? Yet again, we see the invisible hand of God working his plan to the good for those who love Him (Rom 8:28)
- Many bible scholars see Boaz as a Christophany of Jesus Christ, our Kinsman Redeemer and his (Boaz's) relationship with Ruth representative of the church
 - Eph 2:10-22 read
- We liken Ruth to us as a lost sinner outside the covenant family of God, with Him providing a way for us to join into His family through Jesus Christ

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.

- The foreman tells Boaz exactly who Ruth is, that she's the young Moabite woman who returned with Naomi from Moab
- In that culture, it would have been inappropriate for Ruth to speak to Boaz first; she was considered lowly, impoverished and now a known Moabitess – Boaz was a great man in Bethlehem

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."

- Again, the foreman is catching Boaz up on the details and conveys to him Ruth's submissiveness as she asked to be allowed to glean the field
- Ruth could have claimed her right to glean, but rather she kindly asked permission to gather
 - [Lev 19:9-10 NKJV] 9 'When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10 'And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather [every] grape of your vineyard; **you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I [am] the LORD your God.**
- This was Mosaic Law given to Moses on Mt Sinai back in Genesis. It's apparent that God knew from the beginning to the end not only this story, but the stories of all the poor, the needy and the strangers that would come along.

REDEEMING LOVE – DAY 2, QUESTION 4

The servant in charge of the reapers informs Boaz who she is and where she is? Where was she sitting?

- [Psa 139:1-2 NKJV] 1 For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. O LORD, You have searched me and known [me]. 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

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.

- Boaz calls her daughter, because there is likely a large age gap.
- Boaz takes the initiative here – the same as God's grace that He shows us not because we're deserving, but rather because He loves us. Boaz is a type of Christ. Hosea 12:10 NKJV Can you name other types in the Scriptures? Isaac being sacrificed is also a type of Christ.
 - [1Jo 4:19 NKJV] 19 We love Him because He first loved us.
- It's good to remember we are often under observation by others to see how we will walk with God – will others see a difference in us?
- God took the initiative to give us salvation when we were spiritually dead
 - Eph 2:1-10
- And we were without strength
 - [Rom 5:6 NKJV] 6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.
- Sinners
 - [Rom 5:8 NKJV] 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- And His enemies
 - [Rom 5:10 NKJV] 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

- Salvation was His plan all along; it was never an afterthought
- Ruth would never have taken the initiative to speak first to Boaz; he was “lord of the harvest”
- Note Boaz broke off conversation with his foreman to engage Ruth
- We see Boaz providing three things immediately to Ruth; provision, protection and companionship of the other young women
- “Stay close to my young women” – these were the women responsible for tying up the cut sheaves of grain
- In the same way, God wants us to stay in His fields. We need not go wandering in other fields, seeking fulfillment elsewhere. God has provided protection and everything we need with Him. Do not wander off.

REDEEMING LOVE – DAY 3, question 1

1. Now listen! (RSV)

- My daughter
- He’s older and influential and expects her to obey

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."

- Boaz knew Ruth would be blessed staying in his provision and would also be refreshed being able to drink from the water drawn by the young women and men
- Plus she’d have benefit of the best of the gleaning by going after them
- She would also have the blessing of companionship with other younger people
- Why does Boaz call her “my daughter”?
 - She was younger than him (Ruth 3:10) and it was also a term of endearment

REDEEMING LOVE (CONTINUED) Day 3 – question 2

2. Answer:

- Companionship – stay close to the young women, stay close to my young women
- Protection: I’ve ordered the young men not to touch you,
- Refreshment: When you’re thirsty, go to the vessels and drink

How does the Lord meet our need for: (Day Three, page 3, 2.A)

Companionship? (John 14:16-17) – a helper, Spirit of truth, Holy Spirit

- Companionship: [Jhn 14:16-17 NKJV] 16 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- 17 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

Protection (2 Thessalonians 3:3) – protect you from the evil one

B. Protection: [2Th 3:3 NKJV] 3 But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard [you] from the evil one.

Refreshment (when you are thirsty, go to the water jars and drink from what the servants draw)

Refreshment (John 4:13-14) – water springing up to eternal life

C. Refreshment: [Jhn 4:13-14 NKJV] 13 Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

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?"

- Favor = graciousness and kindness
- Why was Ruth surprised by Boaz's kindness? Since I am a foreigner
- This was likely constantly on Ruth's mind; she was not an Israelite and on the basis of background, she didn't belong there; this made Boaz's kindness toward her even more precious
- Don't we find ourselves asking why do bad things happen to me? Ruth is asking the exact opposite question. Why are good things happening to me? How do we look at things? Do expect life to go your way and question why life is difficult? Or are you surprised when things are going well?

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.

REDEEMING LOVE – (Day Three, page 3, Question 3)

He's directing his attention to her; (V13) and spoken kindly to her. She was a foreigner, she was unlike his other maidservants (v13) – he must have been very different from the men she knew in Moab

REDEEMING LOVE – DAY 3 – 4

What did Boaz perceive as extremely attractive about Ruth? All that you have done for your mother-in-law after the death of your husband

- A. [Pro 31:30 NKJV] 30 Charm [is] deceitful and beauty [is] passing, But a woman [who] fears the LORD, she shall be praised.**
- a. Fear of the Lord is much more beautiful and resilient than charms and beauty
 - Can others see from the way you live that you are different? Righteous? Trustworthy? Hardworking? Comforting? Encouraging?
 - We see Boaz encouraging Ruth as if she were a new convert to the God of Israel; in many ways she is an example of a new convert
 - She has put her trust in the God of Israel

- She's left her former associates
- She's amongst strangers
- She was very low in her own eyes
- She found protection under the wings of God
- 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”

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."

REDEEMING LOVE – Day 3, question 4 A

- Boaz prays that God would reward her fully! Give her an overflowing cup!
- 5 things that Boaz does as Kinsman Redeemer
 1. Gives tenderness
 2. Provides generosity
 3. Gives her companionship (stay here with my maids)
 4. Protection (commanded servants not to touch)

REDEEMING LOVE – DAY 3 QUESTION 4 - 1

A. [Pro 31:31 NKJV] 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates.

[Rth 2:12 NKJV] 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."

IS THERE ANY CORRELATION IN THESE TWO VERSES?

- “Under whose wings” Ezekiel 16:8-14

(REDEEMING LOVE – Day 3 page 4 question 5)

Psalm 17:8 – Hide me in the shadow of your wings

Psalm 36:7 – The children of men take refuge in the shadow of your wings

Psalm 57:1 – In the shadow of your wings I will take refuge until destruction passes

Psalm 61:4 – Let me take refuge in the shelter of your wings

Psalm 63:7 – In the shadow of your wings I find Joy.

Psalm 91:4 – Under His wings you may seek refuge

*** Which one of these blesses you the most and why?**

What did you learn about God?

What personal application did you glean?

REDEEMING LOVE SUGGESTION;

Share Isaiah 12:2 with someone this week:

Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the LORD GOD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation