

Maranatha Fellowship CRC
Farmington, NM 87401

Sunday, August 21, 2022, 10:00 AM

Message: God's Provision for Two Widows: Ruth Meets Boaz in the Grain Field, and God Uses Him to Provide for them

Scriptures: Ruth 2:1-23

Context:

God is sovereign, and by His grace, he provides for two widows: Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth. God had a plan for Naomi and Ruth. God provided for them when He brought His plan to completion. Ruth and Boaz's kindness reflects the type of kindness God does. Boaz was a man of integrity and solid character who cared for the destitute widows. Naomi was utterly in despair. However, Ruth was not. She initiates her kindness; she continues to follow Naomi to Israel. Naomi did not return 'empty' because she had Ruth with her. Ruth recognizes the immediate need and acts for it. She shows that she is capable and active in accomplishing the needed task as a foreign woman, willing to risk the danger of gleaning at the edge of the grain field to do what is proper and necessary. She took the responsibility of taking care of her destitute mother-in-law, Naomi. It turns out that Ruth gleaned at the right place, which belongs to Naomi's relative, Boaz's grain field.

It was not by chance that Ruth wound up gleaning at the edge of Boaz's field. The sovereign hand of God was there. Boaz speaks blessings in the name of Yahweh, and he treats with respect and dignity. She asks permission before she starts gleaning; she shows a great work ethic in that Ruth would not stop working until she met Boaz. He granted her permission to glean beyond measure and the same opportunity as his other female workers. As a foreign worker, she recognized that it was an unusual favor. Boaz acknowledged Ruth's tremendous act of kindness: "You left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before" (2:11). Boaz also desires Yahweh to repay Ruth for her acts of kindness and to protect her specially, placing her under his wings.

God used Boaz, who provided her with overabundant Lunch, allowed her special gleaning privileges, and treated her like family. Boaz knew the law and observed them. He became the relative redeemer and offered help to the helpless and defenseless widows in their poverty. He put others and their needs before him. Behind Boaz, it was Yahweh who was actively working. He is a protector and provider. Yahweh defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, loves the alien, and gives them food.

Outline:

- I. Introduction
 - A. Story of Cows and a Missionary: Practice Kindness; It Goes a Long Way!
 - B. How God is Involved in Day-to-Day Joys and Hardships of Our Lives (Ruth 1)
 - C. The Context (2:11)

- II. Ruth And Boaz Meet on the Grain Field
 - A. The Conversation Between Boaz and His Workers (2:4b-7)
 - B. Was Ruth Just About to Leave Boaz's Field? (2:8)
 - C. Boaz Addresses Ruth (2:9)

- III. A Conversation Between Boaz and His Workers Revisited (2:4b-13)

Illus: A Loving Father and His Two Sons

 - A. God's Divine Providential Interference
 - B. God's Grace and Providence at Work for Ruth (2:10)
 - C. Boaz Replies to Ruth (2:11-13), and Naomi Finds that Ruth Has Met Boaz (2:14-23)

D. Some Practical Implications

1. Living in a World That Does Not Believe in God's Sovereignty
2. Practicing Kindness in Our Daily Lives

IV. Conclusion:

- A. Jesus Feeds Four Thousand People (Matt. 15:29-38)
- B. God Multiplies Your "Kindness" to Others through Christ
- C. God restored Naomi and Her Family: God is at Work Even in the Ordinary Details of our Lives
- D. God provides for all who Diligently Seek His Ways: Be kind to all people

Questions and Answers (Refer to Ruth 1, Ruth 2:1-23, NIV for answers)

1. What do you know about Naomi's husband, two sons, and daughters-in-law? (Ruth 1:1-5, NIV)
 - A. Her husband's name was: Elimelek; Here, two sons' names were: Mahlon and Killion B. They were men from Bethlehem in Judah C. They moved to Moab and lived there for a while, E. The sons married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth, after Elimelek died, F. Both the sons lived for ten years and died G. Naomi was left without her two sons and husband. H. All answers are correct
2. With her two daughters-in-law, Naomi left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah (Ruth 1:7). What was Ruth's response when Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters, why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands?" (Ruth 1:11)
 - A. "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." (Ruth 1:16)
 - B. "Where you die, I will die, and I will be buried there. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me" (Ruth 1:17)
 - C. She clung to her mother-in-law. (Ruth 1:14b)
 - D. Kissed Naomi goodbye and went back to her people and her gods (Ruth 1:14a) E. All correct except D
3. What did Boaz do at mealtime? What did he say to his men and Ruth at mealtime? (Ruth 2:14-16)
 - A. He offered her some roasted grain; she ate all she wanted and had some left over.
 - B. "Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar."
 - C. "Let her gather among the sheaves...even pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don't rebuke her." D. All choices are correct.
4. How much barley did Ruth glean when she gleaned the field until evening? (Ruth 2: 17)
 - A. An ephah B. Two ephahs C. Three ephahs D. Four ephahs
5. What was Ruth's report when Naomi asked, "Where did you glean today?" (Ruth 2:19a, 21))
 - A. "The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz" B. He even said to me, 'Stay with my workers until they finish harvesting all my grains.'" C. Both correct D. None
6. What was Naomi's response to Ruth about Boaz? (Ruth 2:20, 22)
 - A. "The LORD bless him!" B. "That man is our close relative" C. "He is one of our guardian-redeemers" D. "It will be good for you, my daughter, to go with the women who work for him...."
7. How long did Ruth stay close to the women of Boaz to glean? (Ruth 2:23)
 - A. Until the barley and wheat harvest is finished. B. Until the Barley harvest is finished, C. Until the wheat harvest is finished. D. Only A is correct