

Ruth seeks Grace & Gleans in the Field of Boaz, a type of Jesus Christ, the Kinsman Redeemer.

- This is the same field where David tended his father's sheep.
- The field where the shepherds were tending the flocks. [Tower of the Flock; Migdal Eder]
- Mary delivered Jesus, the Messiah, born in the line of Boaz and Ruth.

Micah 5:2 But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel,
Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.

God's providential outworking of events in this "little town of Bethlehem, Ephrathah" over the years that followed this fateful day in Ruth 2 should be a source of awe & wonder to us all. It is a testament to God's Faithfulness, the Power of Redemption, and the unfolding of His Divine Purposes through ordinary lives and circumstances.

Ruth 2:8-11 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 & 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, & how you have left your father & your mother & the land of your birth, & have come to a people whom you did not know before.

Key: Ruth is seeking Grace. She is on the journey to become the Bride.

Ruth 2:7: Unnamed servant [type of Holy Spirit] has given a good report regarding Ruth to Boaz.

The Grace of God Welcomes the Outsider

Ruth 2:8a Then Boaz said [his first words] to Ruth, "Listen carefully, my daughter."

- Signals favor and deference toward her as a vulnerable young woman who is seeking refuge in a foreign land.
- Boaz is offering God's covenantal care and protection.

Ruth 2:8 Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here,
but STAY close by my young women.

This command was given by Boaz with her best interest at heart. [He is her kinsman-redeemer.]

- Remember that these were the dangerous days of the judges.

The men led the way through the heads of standing barley grain wielding the sickles, slashing to and fro. The women followed them and would tie the freshly cut stalks into sheaves which were bundles of the grain stalks laid lengthways and tied together after having been reaped.

Stay = dabaq [#1692] is translated cleave.

- Means to stick to, adhere to, cling to, join with, stay in close proximity to
- Abide Fast, cleave fast together, follow close hard after

Dabaq describes something that sticks or clings to something else.

The Septuagint translates dabaq with the Greek verb kollao = glue which literally means to join closely or glue together. It is in the orist imperative which indicates

- a Command that is to be carried out even with a sense of urgency.

Same Greek word as in Gen. 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and

his mother and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Boaz is not offering her a job. He is offering belonging, closeness, intimacy and care.

It is interesting that Ruth is commanded to stay [abide] 4 times in Ruth 2.

Ruth 2:8 Stay right here with us when you gather grain; don't go to any other fields.

Ruth 2:8 Stay right behind the young women working in my field.

Ruth 2:21 Stay with his harvesters until the entire harvest is completed.

Ruth 2:22 Stay with his young women right through the whole harvest. [Naomi's words]

Ruth 2:23 So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz [obedience]

Ruth 1:14b Ruth CLUNG to Naomi. [Gentile clung to Jew]

Preservation and Holding Fast: Demonstrates Ruth's profound, sacrificial loyalty and commitment to Naomi, breaking from her past to follow her mother-in-law.

- Covenant loyalty is portrayed not merely as sentimental attachment but as an active, determined hold that will not let go.
- This action directly leads to Ruth's devotion to caring for Naomi, which ultimately brings about redemption for both women through Boaz.

Zech. 8:23 Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'In those days [Millennial Kingdom]

ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."

Grasp = #2388 Chazaq: Preservation and holding fast

Sleeve = #3671 kanaph: the outer edge or extremity of something, most often a garment.

To spread one's wing—or garment corner—over another expressed commitment.

This signifies a time of global spiritual restoration where Gentiles seek to know God by aligning with the Jewish people, who are recognized as carrying God's presence.

- Symbolizes a desperate desire for spiritual connection and salvation.
- The nations will recognize that God is genuinely with the Jewish people, indicating a complete reversal of the antisemitism or indifference seen during the tribulation.
- A prophecy of unification and the final recognition of the God of Israel by the world.

Boaz understood Ruth's plea: "Spread the corner of your garment [kanaph] over your servant, for you are a kinsman-redeemer." [Ruth 3:9].

Ruth 2:9a Keep Your Eyes On The Field Which They Reap And Go After Them.

Warning: No Root, No Fruit: Our spiritual soil that lacks nutrients stunts root growth.

Matt. 13:3-9; 19-23 Parable of the Sower

³Behold, a sower went out to sow.

⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.

¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart.

This is he who received seed by the wayside.

Note: Birds are used symbolically to represent Satan or evil spirits that snatch away The Word of God.

Scavengers or birds of prey (vultures, ravens) are often linked to impurity, decay, and demonic.

Gen.15:11: Birds of prey swoop down on Abram's sacrifice are often interpreted as demons attacking a holy life. Context: God's Covenant with Abram

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

⁵Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth;

and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth.

⁶But when the sun was up they were scorched, & because they had no root they withered away.

²⁰ But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no root in himself but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

⁷And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.

²² Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

⁸But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

²³ But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces:

some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

⁹ He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

John 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Ruth 2:9a Keep your eyes on the field which they reap and go after them.

Matt. 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

We need to be persistent, passionate, purposeful, and committed in searching for the all-sustaining Word of God.

Glean In God's Word Persistently

Hosea 6:3 Let us press on to know Him. Let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD

Heb. 11:6c He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

The Key to Growing in Godliness: I Tim. 4:6-7

Constantly nourishing ourselves on the words of the faith and of sound doctrine

Glean In God's Word Passionately

Job 23:12 I have not departed from the command of His lips;

I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.

II Tim. 3:17 "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." Knowing the great value of the Word of God produces in us a holy and unswerving passion to know it better.

Glean In God's Word Personally

Col. 3:16 Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Eph. 5:18b-19 but be Filled With The Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Glean In God's Word Purposefully

I Thess. 2:13 We also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the Word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

Prize God's Word as Treasure above all things.

I Tim. 4:15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

Ps. 119:165 Those who love Your Law have great peace, and nothing causes them to stumble.

Boaz is actually employing her to keep focused on where God's protection can be found.

- Stay where God's grace can be had.

John Butler: Importance of keeping one's eyes on the master's field: "If Ruth was going to do as Boaz said and gain the blessing and reward from gleaning in his field, she needed to keep her eyes focused on his field lest in looking at other fields she be tempted to go elsewhere.

- Going Elsewhere Would Diminish Her Blessing.
- What we look at has much effect upon our spiritual walk and growth.

God desires transformation in us. Incline my heart.

Ps. 119:37 Turn my eyes away from looking at what is worthless and revive me in Your ways.

➤ to quicken — to give live or to sustain life.

He is asking to be made alive through God's ways. "Through Your Word, help me to see the things that are worthless and to pursue only the things that are of value eternally."

Heb. 12:2 Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Ruth 2:9b I have warned the young men not to treat you roughly.

➤ Ruth had the Biblical sanction to glean [Lev 19:9, Deut. 24:19] but that sanction did not necessarily guarantee protection from assault, especially in the days of the Judges!

Deut. 22:25-27 But if in the field the man finds the girl who is engaged,

and the man forces her and lies with her, then only the man who lies with her shall die.

But you shall do nothing to the girl; there is no sin in the girl worthy of death.

When he found her in the field, the engaged girl cried out, but there was no one to save her.

➤ More assurance of protection: the fields were dangerous places for women.

➤ He's establishing a moral hedge, a public boundary of honor around her.

This fact makes Boaz's offer exceeding abundantly beyond all that Ruth could have asked or thought. [Eph. 3:20]

God's Protection in Action A clear, enforceable order guarantees Ruth is safe from harassment.

Psalm 121:5 The Lord is your keeper; The Lord is your shade at your right hand.

Key: God, using Boaz as His instrument, was protecting Ruth.

At the same time, God was protecting the seed of Obed [Ruth 4:21-22] and

the integrity of the line of the Messiah [Matt 1:1, 5-6] from being "defiled."

Key Instances of God Protecting the Seed Line:

The Preservation of Noah [Gen. 7-9]: God used the ark to save Noah and his family, preventing the total corruption of the human race by fallen angels and mankind's wickedness, thus preserving the lineage that would lead to Abraham and eventually Christ.

The Selection of Isaac [Gen. 17, 21] Despite Abraham's doubt and the birth of Ishmael, God specifically ordained that the promise would pass through Sarah's son, Isaac, ensuring the covenant remained intact.

Protection of Sarah [Gen. 20] God had also protected Abraham's wife Sarah from the Philistine King Abimelech [Gen 20:6-7].

➤ God would perform a miracle to fulfill His Promise of a son to Abraham & Sarah.

The Line of Judah over Reuben/Simeon [Gen. 38, 49] Despite the sins of Judah, God maintained the promise through his line rather than his brothers, highlighting that the covenant rested on divine grace rather than human merit.

The Preservation of Moses [Ex. 1-2] When Pharaoh ordered the murder of all Hebrew baby boys to destroy the nation of Israel, God protected Moses, who would eventually lead the people to the land where the Seed would be born.

The Preservation of David [I Sam. 29] God providentially intervened when David was in a precarious situation with the Philistines, preventing him from fighting against his own people and securing his future kingship.

Protection from Athaliah [II Kings 11] When Queen Athaliah tried to destroy the entire royal line of Judah, God preserved Joash, a child hidden in the temple, to continue the Davidic covenant.

The Birth of Jesus [Matt. 2] God warned Joseph in a dream to take Jesus to Egypt to escape Herod's decree to kill all male children in Bethlehem, ensuring the ultimate Seed survived.

Ruth 2:9c And when you are thirsty, help yourself to the water they have drawn from the well.
Hubbard What an interesting touch: a foreign woman who customarily would draw water for Israelites was welcome to drink water drawn by Israelites.

Jer. 2:13-14 My people have committed two sins: [1] They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and [2] have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water."

This message was given as a rebuke to people who had turned away from God in their hearts—had lost their commitment to God, and had turned to all sorts of other sources for fulfillment. But the people of Judah found that the cisterns of their own making were broken cisterns that could hold no refreshing water. This is always the way when we try to design our own holding tank for spiritual refreshment. Self-made attempts and schemes designed to find spiritual fulfillment apart from the Lord will inevitably result in failure.

Boaz gave Ruth permission to drink from the water jars that the young male servants had filled for their use. This was a privilege not ordinarily permitted the gleaners. It is another manifestation of the undeserved favor [grace] that Boaz choose to bestow on Ruth.

God's Provision: When Ruth gets to drink what Boaz's men had already drawn for her, it's a picture of God's grace of provision. It's already prepared. It is freely offered. It can't be earned.

I Cor. 10:4 For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. Boaz's protection and provision for Ruth can be seen as a foreshadowing of the care and love that Christ offers to His followers.

Boaz's willingness to care for and provide for Ruth serves as a reflection of Christ's sacrificial love for His church, and the way in which He meets the needs of His people.

This gives us a picture of God's amazing grace as our "greater Boaz", our Kinsman-Redeemer. He invites us to come and drink if we are thirsty.

John 7:37-38 If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.

John 4:13-15 "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."

Ps. 42:2 I thirst for God, the living God.

Only God Himself can quench our spiritual thirst.

➤ Isaiah 55:1-2, John 4:13-14, John 6:35 and John 7:37-38

Truth: The ONLY ONE who can satisfy the human heart is the One who made it.

Boaz gives three instructions to Ruth.

Stay in my field. Stay close by my women. Drink from my vessels.

Dignity preserved: Boaz's words lift Ruth from vulnerability to honor, fulfilling

Psalm 113:7-8, He raises the poor out of the dust, and lifts the needy out of the ash heap,

⁸ That He may seat *him* with princes— With the princes of His people.

Ps. 146:9 The LORD watches over the foreigner; He sustains the fatherless and the widow.

Ruth fits all 3 categories—foreigner, fatherless, widow—showing how fully the promise applies.

The field that could easily have meant peril for a foreign woman becomes a sanctuary of provision. This isn't ordinary kindness. This is an OT picture of Law that becomes Grace.

Hesed Love: *Hesed* is a foundational Hebrew word in the Old Testament describing God's covenantal, steadfast, and loyal love. It goes beyond mere emotion, combining mercy, kindness, grace, and devotion to others, particularly in relationships.

It is a proactive, enduring love that persists even when the recipient is unworthy.

Love in Action: *Hesed* is rarely passive.

It is demonstrated through mercy, compassion, and kindness that exceeds duty.

Hesed is often defined as "when the person from whom I have a right to expect nothing gives me everything." Boaz provided for Ruth in a way that was better than she could have hoped to find any other way.

Because Ruth has turned away from her idols and turned to worship the Living God.

Because she has chosen to be counted among the people of God, serve God and His people, she has been provided for by God.

We as Christians have been given Living water that we didn't have to draw. [John 7:38]

It was provided for us freely by Jesus. God has promised to meet all of our needs.

Like Boaz taking the initiative in providing for Ruth, God has taken the initiative and sent Jesus His Son to provide for all our needs.

Our reaction to God providing this living water for us, should be the same as Ruth's reaction.

God's Grace Protects The Vulnerable Ruth 2:10-11

Ruth 2:10 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?"

Fell #05307 naphal = literally to fall as from a higher to a lower position

The writer adds a second verb, shachah to present an even clearer picture of what transpired that day in the barley field. Shachah adds the nuance of doing so with an attitude which is also "bowed down." It is used to describe one prostrating one's self or bowing down before God with an attitude of reverence and worship.

Gen 17:3 Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him,

The picture is of Ruth falling [naphal] to her knees and then bowing to the ground or laying herself out on the ground at the feet of Boaz.

Prostrate is defined as being stretched out with one's face on the ground in adoration or submission. It is not just that the person has fallen down but pictures them lying at length or with their body extended on the ground and so lying in a posture which is reflective of genuine humility and/or adoration.

John Butler: "This most humble behavior before Boaz shows in action her belief that she is very unworthy of his favors. It is like the action of Peter who, after a great miracle by Christ which gave Peter a great catch of fish, "fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord" [Luke 5:8+].

Warren Wiersbe: Ruth neither looked back at her tragic past nor did she look at herself and consider her sorry plight. She fell at the feet of the master and submitted herself to him. She looked away from her poverty and focused on His riches. She forgot her fears and rested on His promises.

Butler: We need to bow before our Divine benefactor as Ruth bowed before Boaz in recognition of our unworthiness. Bowing not only shows our humble recognition of unworthiness for Divine blessings—and none of us are worthy of His blessings, but it also shows gratitude for the blessings. Lack of reverence shows sinful pride and much lack of gratitude.

We have not given the Lord any reason to be kind to us. We have given the Lord plenty of reasons to withhold favor and send calamity. Yet the Lord blesses us in spite of us.

I Thess. 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks;

for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

John 1:16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.

Response Of Boaz To Ruth's Submission

Ruth 2:11 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.

Boaz noticed how Ruth [church-Gentile] has treated Naomi [Israel].

Naomi > Type of Israel > Exile, Out of the Land; Destitute

Ruth > Type of Gentile Bride

Boaz > Type of Jesus Christ

The Sheep/Goat Judgment will be held at the end of the 7-year Tribulation Period.

The judgment will determine who are the "sheep" and who are the "goats."

In the sheep/goat judgment in Matthew 25, Jesus' brethren are interpreted as the Jewish believers, often called the "least of these," who will suffer greatly during the tribulation period. The "least of these" are the believing Jews, Jesus' "brothers" in the flesh, who were persecuted and hunted down by the Antichrist during the great tribulation.

The nations, the Gentiles, will be judged based on how they treated these Jewish believers. During that time of intense trouble, only the righteous will risk their own well-being to help the Jewish people in their distress. The "sheep" are the Gentile believers who ministered to and cared for them during this time of persecution.

The righteous "sheep" are blessed and inherit the kingdom, the earthly Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Ruth's past actions were a report card by which others judged her. Her good reputation was her most valuable asset. It came as a result of her hard work, her strong moral character, and her sensitivity, kindness, and loyalty to Naomi.

It highlights her transition from a Moabite to a woman trusting in the God of Israel.

Boaz cited two grades from Ruth's report card.

- Ruth had shown loyal-love to her mother-in-law, Naomi.
- Ruth left her parents to live among people she did not know.

This passage sets the stage for Boaz to reward Ruth's actions, resulting in her being "repaid" by God for her faithfulness.

Study the Whole Counsel of God: Spurgeon: Spiritual Gleaning

1. Doctrine Field

➤ Great Sheaf Of Preservation:

❖ It is promised to us that the work that God has begun, He will assuredly complete.

➤ The Sheaf Of Redemption By The Blood Of Christ. Redemption is finished.

❖ When I am born again, I am reconciled to God.

Spurgeon: The doctrine field is a glorious field, beloved; go often into it, and glean; you may find there more than an ephah of the finest wheat every day.

2. The Promise Field

Isa. 43:2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

A promise with a short stalk, but there is a great deal of corn in it:

II Cor. 12:9 My grace is sufficient for thee.

Isa. 41:10 Fear thou not, for I am with thee.

John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Spurgeon: Go and glean in that field. It is all your own, every ear of it; pull great handfuls out of the sheaves.

Spurgeon: God has one field on a hill which is as rich as any of the others. Indeed, you cannot really and truly go into any of the other fields unless you go through this one, for the road to the other fields lies through this one, which is called:

3. The Field Of Fellowship And Communion With Christ.

That is the field to glean in. Some of you have only run through it, you have not stopped in it; but he who knows how to abide in it, and to walk about it, doth never lose anything, but gains much. Beloved, it is only in proportion as we hold fellowship with Christ, and commune with Him, that either ordinances, or doctrines, or promises, can profit us. All those other things are dry and barren unless we have entered into the love of Christ, unless we have realized our union with Him, unless we have a sympathy with His heart, unless we bear His likeness, unless we dwell continually with Him, and feel His love, and are ravished with His delights.

I am sorry to say that few Christians think as much as they ought of this field; it is enough for them to be sound in doctrine and tolerably correct in practice; they do not think as much as they should about holding fellowship with Christ. I am sure, if they did, there would not be half so many evil tempers as there are; nor half so much pride, and not a tithe so much sloth, if our brethren went into that field oftener. Oh, it is a blessed one; it is full of everything good that the heart can wish, or the soul imagine, or the mind conceive. Blessed, blessed field is that field. God leaves the gate of that field wide open for every believer.

Children of God, go into all these fields; do not despise one of them;

but go and glean in them all; for there is the richest gleaning in all creation.

Stay In My Field:

John 15:4-5 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.