

BOOK OF RUTH
GOOD NEWS FROM THE FIELD OF GRACE
RUTH 2:17-23

Introduction

Last time we were in the **BOOK OF RUTH**, we saw that **RUTH THE MOABITNESS** had gone to the field of **BOAZ** to glean barley. While she was there, she met the owner of the field. She caught his eye. She ate lunch at his table and he personally served her the food.

When she left the field that day, she left with more than she bargained for. She returned home that evening weary and tired from her labors, but she had a story to tell **NAOMI**.

All day, her mother-in-law **NAOMI** would have been waiting for her to return with enough grain for a little meal. When **RUTH** finally did return, she was loaded down with enough grain to last them a week. Not only did she have grain, but she had some **GOOD NEWS** to tell as well.

I want us to look at that **GOOD NEWS**. It is news that we all need to hear, because this **GOOD NEWS FROM THE FIELD OF GRACE** can help each of us to grow in our own walk with the **LORD**. There are some mighty big truths here for those who are willing to grab hold of them.

I. RUTH HAD SOME GOOD NEWS ABOUT THEIR PROVISIONS! (Vs. 17-18)

A. RUTH Had Provisions That Were Designed To Satisfy! (Vs. 17)

When **RUTH** returned home, she had 25lbs of barley. That was more than enough to feed these 2 women for a week.

She went looking for enough for one meal and returned with enough to feed them for a week.

BOAZ wanted her to get so much in his field that she would never even dream of gleaning anywhere else.

Could I tell you that our **HEAVENLY BOAZ (the LORD)** is determined to bless **HIS** people too!

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***Ephesians 1:3**—“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.”*

The **LORD** wants to give us so much that we will never think of going anywhere else to glean.

RUTH’S words to **NAOMI** in *verse 21* serve to show that their **BLESSINGS** would continue until the end of the harvest.

Our **LORD** will **BLESS** us right until the end of the harvest here in this world. But, our **LORD** doesn't intend to stop **BLESSING** us even when we leave this world. Oh how **HE BLESSES** us now, but **HE** will really **BLESS** us then!

***Ephesians 2:7**—“That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”*

RUTH Had Provisions That Were Designed To Satisfy. . .

B. RUTH Had Provisions That Were Designed To Show! (Vs. 18)

Can you see **RUTH** as she throws that 25lb across her shoulder and heads into the city?

Everyone who saw her pass by knew that she was that girl from **MOAB**. They knew she and **NAOMI** came to town with nothing and by now most of them knew she had gone to the field of **BOAZ** to glean.

But they could also see that she had received a **BLESSING** by **just watching her go past**. **BOAZ** appears to have been making a statement to the community in his **BLESSING RUTH!**

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That sack of grain was his way of saying, *"I've got my eye on RUTH, and I'm going to be a blessing in her life."*

Did you know that the **LORD'S BLESSINGS** in our lives are designed to show a lost world just how good **GOD** is.

HE BLESSES HIS PEOPLE in order to create a desire in the hearts those who do not know **HIM**. That is why **HE** gives us **GRACE** for living. **HE** wants to use us as living testimonies to **HIS GRACE, HIS POWER, and HIS GLORY!**

Matthew 5:16—*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."*

As we live out the real **BLESSINGS OF GOD**, this world is going to be affected by **GOD'S WORKING IN US!**

What are the real **BLESSINGS OF GOD**? It is a life that manifests the **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT!**

Galatians 5:22-23—*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."*

A **CHILD OF GOD** who displays these **GRACES** in his or her life is a **CHILD OF GOD** who **WALKS IN VICTORY!**

RUTH Had Provisions That Were Designed To Satisfy...
RUTH Had Provisions That Were Designed To Show...

C. RUTH Had Provisions That Were Designed To Share!
(Vs. 18)

Not only did she **SHARE** the bounty of her provision with **NAOMI**, but she also **SHARED** the remaining part of her portion that she was given by **BOAZ** in *verse 14*.

RUTH wasn't selfish, she wanted to **SHARE** what she had

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with **NAOMI**.

Did you know that we are not to simply horde up the **BLESSINGS OF THE LORD**, but we are to **SHARE** them with others?

Whatever we have been **BLESSED** with by **GOD** has been given to us to use for **HIS GLORY**. Whether it be a talent, **GOD'S TRUTH**, a gift, financial resources, or whatever, **HIS BLESSINGS** are given to us so that we might **SHARE** them with others.

RUTH received what she did because of **GOD'S GOOD GRACE**, but also because she was willing to work for it! She gleaned and she got more than she gleaned!

The same is true in **SPIRITUAL MATTERS!** **GOD** gives us so much more than we put into it, but **HE** expects us to apply ourselves!

Whether it be **PRAYER, WORSHIP**, or just **VICTORY** in our daily life, it isn't for the lazy! **GOD'S** best is reserved for those who are willing to deny themselves, take up **HIS CROSS** daily and follow **HIM**. (*Matthew 16:24*)

RUTH HAD SOME GOOD NEWS ABOUT THEIR PROVISIONS...
Designed To Satisfy
Designed To Show
Designed To Share

II. RUTH HAD SOME GOOD NEWS ABOUT A PERSON!
(Vs. 19-21)

A. BOAZ Was A Person Who Was INTERESTED In Their Situation! (Vs. 19)

When **NAOMI** saw all that **RUTH** had returned with, she was

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overwhelmed and began to magnify the person who had given so much. She could easily see that **RUTH** didn't get that much by just your normal gleaning!

She knew that someone had **BLESSED** them with an open hand! She blessed the person who *"has taken knowledge of"* **RUTH!** That word *"knowledge"* conveys the idea of *"paying attention to; to acknowledge; to notice"*.

NAOMI realized that the person behind all this grain had noticed **RUTH** and wanted to be a special **BLESSING** to her.

NAOMI didn't know it at this point, and neither did **RUTH**, but **RUTH** had been noticed by one who was **INTERESTED IN KNOWING HER** even better. He was **INTERESTED** in her situation! (2:11-12)

Listen, the **LORD JESUS** is **INTERESTED** in us! Wherever we may be today in our **SPIRITUAL JOURNEY**, **JESUS** is **INTERESTED** in us getting to **KNOW HIM** better!

HE is **INTERESTED** in **KNOWING** the **LOST** by **SALVATION**. **HE** is **INTERESTED** in the cold and backslidden in heart returning to **HIM** so that they can know **HIM** intimately. **HE** is **INTERESTED** in leading those who are defeated to the place of **POWER** and **VICTORY**.

The question is: How **INTERESTED** are we in all that **HE** has to offer us?

BOAZ Was A Person Who Was INTERESTED In Their Situation...

B. BOAZ Was A Person Who Was INVOLVED In Their Situation! (Vs. 19)

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Not only was **BOAZ INTERESTED** in **RUTH'S** situation, he was also **INVOLVED** in her and **NAOMI'S** situation. He had opened his hands and his heart to **RUTH** and took steps to improve her and **NAOMI'S** condition.
(2:11; 2:15-16)

BOAZ was busy working behind the scenes to see that **RUTH'S NEEDS** were met! He was **INVOLVED** in her life!

Our **HEAVENLY BOAZ** is also **INVOLVED** in our lives! Now there are times when **HE** cannot be seen and there are times when **HIS HAND** is not visible, but we can rest assured that **HE US ACTIVELY WORKING** on our behalf to **FULFILL HIS PLAN** for our lives!

C. BOAZ Was A Person Who Was The INSTRUMENT In Their Situation! (Vs. 20-21)

BOAZ didn't even realize the extent that he was being used in the lives of these two women. He had become an **INSTRUMENT IN THE HAND OF THE LORD**. There are three ways in which **BOAZ** was being used by **GOD** as an **INSTRUMENT OF BLESSING**.

- 1. BOAZ Was An INSTRUMENT Of REVIVAL.**
In *Chapter 1:20-21*, we saw that **NAOMI** was a defeated and discouraged woman. She was that way because of her backslidden condition.

However, when **RUTH** returned from **THE FIELD OF GRACE** with **THE GOOD NEWS OF BOAZ**, **NAOMI** was once more **RESTORED** to the place of **WORSHIP** and **VICTORY**.

GOD had used this man to **ENCOURAGE** the heart of one of **HIS CHILDREN**.

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Listen, if a **CHILD OF GOD** has allowed their heart to grow cold and hard toward the things of the **LORD**, let me remind you that **HE** knows where they are! **HE** wants to show up in their life and set things right as only HE can do!

Just because one is down doesn't mean that they are out of **HIS** care! One of the first steps in getting back in the place of the **LORD'S** best **BLESSINGS** is for the wanderer to come before **HIM** and deal with whatever is lacking in their life.

That is the challenge we have from the **WORD OF GOD**. (*1 John 1:9*)
BOAZ Was An INSTRUMENT OF REVIVAL...

2. **BOAZ Was An INSTRUMENT OF REDEMPTION.**
As **NAOMI** listened to **RUTH** speak, the wheels of her mind no doubt were turning.

She heard the name **BOAZ** and she recognized that he is "*near of kin*". She remembered who he was and said, "*he is one of our next kinsmen*".

Then, she began to realize all that the **LORD** was doing. In **HIS PROVIDENCE**, the **LORD** had brought **RUTH** into contact with one who had the *right of redemption* according to the Law.
(*Leviticus 25:25-34*)

We can almost see her regaining her **SPIRITUAL CONFIDENCE** here.
Under the LAW OF REDEMPTION, for a man to be a KINSMAN REDEEMER three things had to be

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true:

- a. **He Had To Be Related - BOAZ was RELATED! (2:1)**
So is *JESUS to us!*
Hebrews 2:14-15; John 1:1, 14
- b. **He Had To Be Able To Redeem - BOAZ was a MIGHTY MAN OF WEALTH. (2:1)**
JESUS is ABLE TO REDEEM all who come to **HIM** for **SALVATION!**
Hebrews 7:25.
- c. **He Had To Be Willing To Redeem.**
Everything **BOAZ** was doing suggested that he was willing to do anything to get to know **RUTH.**

JESUS was more than willing to pay the price for our **REDEMPTION**. *Romans 5:8—“But God commendeth His love. . .”*

These women needed a **REDEEMER**. If they didn't find one, they were destined to live their lives in poverty.

ALL who are **LOST IN SIN** need a **REDEEMER!** **ONE** and only **ONE** is available if they will only **HEAR HIM, COME TO HIM, BELIEVE ON HIM, and TRUST HIS PROVISION!**
JESUS CHRIST!

BOAZ Was An INSTRUMENT OF REVIVAL...
BOAZ Was An INSTRUMENT OF REDEMPTION...

3. **BOAZ Was An INSTRUMENT OF REFRESHMENT!**

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RUTH told **NAOMI** in *verse 21* that she would be returning to the **FIELD OF GRACE** to work until the harvest ended. In other words, they were going to enjoy plenty because of this man named **BOAZ**.

BOAZ had his reapers dropping "*Handfuls of Purpose*" for **RUTH**. Everyday he would see that she had parched corn, a cool drink of water and all the grain she could carry when she left the field. He was going to be a blessing to **RUTH** for as long as **RUTH** worked in his field.

Listen, the **LORD** has **GLORY**, and **POWER**, and **VICTORY** and **BLESSING** available for every one of **US** who are **HIS CHILDREN**. But, **HE** wants us working in **HIS FIELD**!

For **RUTH** to get what **BOAZ** wanted her to have she would have to go to the **FIELD OF GRACE** every day (day by day) and put forth some effort.

It is the same way in the **SPIRITUAL REALM**. If we want the **LORD'S BEST**, then we have to do our part by **STAYING AND GLEANING IN OUR LORD'S FIELD OF GRACE**!