

2:3

Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened her “stroke of luck” was to land on the “land” which **happens** to be **the part belonging to Boaz**, Why didn’t she go to Naomi’s **field**? Maybe nobody grew anything on **Elimelech’s** (Naomi’s) field. Even if there were anything on that **field**, it seems as though it would be dangerous to go to that land (2:9).

who was of the family of Elimelech. This reminds us of Jesus, Hebrews 2:14-16, who needed to be made like unto His brothers. He had to be **family** to redeem His people, just like **Boaz**.

2:4

Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, the fields, then, were outside of town. **and said to the reapers, “The LORD be with you!” And they answered him, “The LORD bless you!”**

2:5

Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, “Whose young woman is this?” Was she pretty? Was she unrecognized?

2:6-7

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. Or as has been shown in the translation, she **came back from the [fields] of Moab** and “happened unto the fields belonging to Boaz.” **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.”** She has worked most the morning and maybe into the afternoon. This is not your typical welfare program. She was working hard to eat.

2:8-9

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.”

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, grace, then, found its occasion (as it did with Cornelius, Acts 10) because of one’s conduct. So much for the ideas that it cannot be called **favor** if one places himself in a position to be a recipient of grace/**favor**. This can be seen in a teacher who considers a student’s study habits when determining whether to give “grace points” or a second chance at taking a test.

that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?” This seems like a foretaste of the joyful realization of Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9). Her gratitude was audible, visible, emotional, and it sacrificed some pride.

2:11-12

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.” Boaz sees that he is a dispenser of grace on behalf of **God**. Perhaps that is not as amazing as his seeing himself as a receiver of faith on behalf of **God** also. In other words, **Boaz** was showing everybody what God was like.

2:13

Then she said, “Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, ⁿthough I am not like one of your maidservants.” “I know I did not grow up with the girls from around here.”

2:14-16

Now Boaz said to her at mealtime, “Come here, and eat of the bread, and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar.” The noon meal, it seems, based on verse 17.

Vinegar (Hebrew chometz) was a beverage consisting generally of wine or strong drink turned sour. It was probably made by mixing water and new grape juice and leaving it to ferment. The Nazarites were forbidden to drink it (Numbers 6:3). It may have been excessively sour (Proverbs 10:26). It was similar to the posea of the Romans, which was a thin sour wine, unintoxicating, and used only by the poor. This is what is referred to under the name vinegar in the KJV (wine, wine vinegar, NIV) in the narrative of the crucifixion of our Lord (see Matthew 27:34, 48; Luke 23:36; John 19:29–30).¹

So she sat beside the reapers, She didn’t sit with the “gleaners.” She is with those who actually belong, by design, on the field.

and he passed parched grain to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back. 15 And when she rose up to ²glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not ³reproach her. 16 Also let grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her.”

2:17-18

So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out maybe with stones? what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. Maybe 30 pounds? Perhaps enough for the two of them to eat for almost a week. **18 Then she took it up and went into the city,** of Bethlehem.

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.

ⁿ 1 Sam. 25:41

¹James M. Freeman and Harold J. Chadwick, *Manners & Customs of the Bible* (North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos Publishers, 1998), 200-201.

² Gather after the reapers

³ rebuke

2:19

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.” Naomi was pretty clear that Ruth didn’t simply “glean” this.

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.”

2:20

Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, ^s“Blessed *be* he of the LORD, who ^thas not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!” Naomi and Elimelech! **And Naomi said to her, “This man *is* a relation of ours, one of our close relatives.”**

2:21

Ruth the Moabite said, “He also said to me, ‘You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.’ ”

2:22-23

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 ⁵meet you in any other field.” **23** **So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; maybe as many as 6 or 7 weeks. and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.**

^s Ruth 3:10; 2 Sam. 2:5

^t Prov. 17:17

⁵ encounter