



**Ruth and the Experience of Abundant Grace
(Ruth 2:1-10)**

Reading Ruth 2:1-10

- Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.
- ² And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."
- ³ So she set out 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 clan of Elimelech.

Reading Ruth 2:1-10

- 4 And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered, "The LORD bless you."
- 5 Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"
- 6 And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.
- 7 She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest."

Reading Ruth 2:1-10

- **8** Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women.
- **9** Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn."
- **10** Then she fell on her face, bowing 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?"

Exposition:

Ruth 2:1

- Family connections between Boaz and Elimelech (Ruth 2:1)
- Foreshadowing: connections between family, God, land, and society in Jewish culture
- “Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.”

I. Seeking Practical Solutions

Ruth 2:2-3

A. Ruth Takes the Initiative (v. 2a)

B. Ruth Shows Respect to Naomi (v. 2b)

C. Social Benevolence Codified (v. 3)(Leviticus 19:9-10)

- ² And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."
- ³ So she set out 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 clan of Elimelech.

Leviticus 19:9-10

- ⁹ “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. ¹⁰ And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.”

II. Earning What We Receive

Ruth 2:5-7

- A. Our Reputation Precedes Us (v. 6)
- B. Ruth Shows Respect to the Foreman (v. 7a)
- C. Hard Work Gets Noticed (v. 7b)

- 5 Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"
- 6 And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.
- 7 She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest."

III. Receiving More Than We Deserve

Ruth 2:8-9(An allegory)

- A. Place to Belong
- B. Safety from Dangers
- C. Rest and Refreshment

- 8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women.
- 9 Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn."

IV. Humble Gratitude

Ruth 2:10(An allegory)

- A. Unanticipated Blessings
- B. The Powerful One Perceives (Immanence)
- C. Previously Separated as a "Foreigner"

Despite Deuteronomy 10:18-19 and *Imago Dei*

10 Then she fell on her face, bowing 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?"

Provide and care for the traveler/immigrant

- ¹⁸ He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹ Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. (Deuteronomy 10:18-19)

Takeaways:

1. Gratitude Leads to Generosity

- **Boaz** (Ruth 2:4, 8-9)
- 4 And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered, "The LORD bless you." . . .
- 8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women.
- 9 Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn."

Takeaways:

2. Lowered Expectations/Heightened Gratitude

- **Ruth** (Ruth 2:10)
- 10 Then she fell on her face, bowing 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?"

Let Us Pray

