



**Naomi and the Beginning of Hope
(Ruth 2:11-23)**

Ruth 2:10 (The Context)

- 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?”

Ruth 2:11-13

(Compassion for the Marginalized)

¹¹ But Boaz answered her, “All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before.

12 The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!”

13 Then she said, “I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants.”

Ruth 2:14-16

(Generosity to the marginalized)

¹⁴ And at mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine.” So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over.

15 When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her.

16 And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her.”



Ruth 2:17-19 (Blessings to the Benevolent)

- ¹⁷ So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah^[a] of barley.
- ¹⁸ And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied.
- ¹⁹ And her mother-in-law said to her, “Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? **Blessed be the man who took notice of you.**” 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.”
- Ruth 2:17 An *ephah* was about 3/5 bushel or 22 liters

Ruth 2:20a (Blessings to the Benevolent)

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- ²⁰ And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!"

Ruth 2:20b
(Social support
for the
marginalized)
(And the
Beginning of
Hope)

- Naomi also said to her, "The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers."
- **2:1** Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.

Reading Ruth 2:21-23 (Safety for the marginalized)

²¹ And Ruth the Moabite said, “Besides, he said to me, ‘You shall keep close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.’”

²² And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, “It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted.”

²³ So she kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

Random Acts of Kindness (Summary)

I. Compassion to the marginalized (vv. 11-13)

II. Generosity to the marginalized (vv. 14-16)

III. Blessings to the Benevolent (vv. 17-20a)

IV. Social support for the marginalized (v. 20b)

V. Safety for the marginalized (vv. 21-23)

Blessed are the marginalized (The Beatitudes)

3. “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:3)

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
⁶Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
(Matthew 5:5-6)

Blessed are the Merciful (The Beatitudes)

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure
in heart,
for they will see
God. (Matthew 5:7-8)

Takeaways:

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1. Keep hoping, keep working

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2. Hope, the size of a mustard seed

03

3. Hope, the evidence of things unseen

04

4. Hope in Jesus, our “kinsman redeemer”

A silhouette of two hands holding a glowing cross against a sunset background. The hands are positioned in the center-right of the frame, with the fingers spread and the palms facing each other. A bright white cross is centered between the hands, emitting a strong glow and lens flare. The background is a warm, golden sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

Let Us Pray