

BOOK OF RUTH
SEARCHING FOR GRACE—PT 1
RUTH 2:1-3

Introduction

There are three primary personalities that are presented in the **BOOK OF RUTH**. **First, there is NAOMI**. We saw in *Chapter 1* how that she is a **PICTURE** or **TYPE** of a **BACKSLIDDEN BELIEVER**. We saw how she and her husband had left the place the **LORD** had for them (*Bethlehem-Judah*) and we saw what it cost them. **NAOMI'S** husband and her two sons all died and we saw last week by her own admission she says **she went out full, but came home empty**.

We look at **NAOMI** and we are reminded that **SIN, no matter how we got there, always has CONSEQUENCES!**

We also saw how that, after being broken and emptied in **MOAB**, she finally decided to **RETURN HOME** to the **PLACE OF BLESSING**. **NAOMI is a lesson of HOPE for anyone who has gotten away from the things of the LORD that you both CAN and SHOULD RETURN TO THE PLACE OF BLESSING in your life!**

Another person we see in this book is a man first mentioned in our text by the name of BOAZ. **BOAZ** provides for us a very clear **TYPE** of the **LORD JESUS CHRIST!** I'll have much more to say about him later on.

And of course the third main character of this story is the young lady by the name of RUTH for whom this book is named. **RUTH** was a young **GENTILE** woman from the pagan country of **MOAB**, who, by **GOD'S GOOD PROVIDENCE and GRACE**, came to know the **ONE TRUE GOD, JEHOVAH!**

In this passage, she is an excellent picture of a **BRAND NEW CONVERT**, a young **BELIEVER** who is just beginning to **LEARN** about the **LORD** and **GROW** in the things of the **LORD!** She is just beginning to experience the **GREAT BLESSINGS of the LORD and HIS GRACE!**

As we observe the activities of **RUTH** in these verses, we see a woman who is **SEARCHING FOR GRACE**.

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I. THE PURPOSE IN RUTH'S SEARCH! (Vs. 2)

A. She Was Searching For FOOD!

RUTH wanted to go to the fields and glean ears of corn. She and **NAOMI** needed food to eat. The main thrust of her search was to find food for their bodies.

She illustrates that **DESIRE** that is birthed in the heart of the **CHILD OF GOD** at **CONVERSION**: *That is, a DESIRE to KNOW more about the LORD and to GROW in Him.*

How important is the **WORD OF GOD** to us?

Job 23:12—“ . . . I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.”

Jeremiah 15:16—“Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.”

1 Peter 2:2—“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”

Philippians 3:10—“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death”

Do we **DESIRE** to **KNOW GOD** better? I'm not just talking about **KNOWING ABOUT GOD**, but **COMING TO KNOW GOD—EXPERIENTIALLY!**

Partaking of the **WORD OF GOD** is what causes **GROWTH** in the life of a **BELIEVER!** When it is rightly digested it can lead to an **EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE OF GOD** as we **APPLY THE PRINCIPLES OF SCRIPTURE** and see **GOD** work in our life!

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She Was Searching For FOOD.

B. She Was Searching For FAVOR. (Vs 2)
"...I shall find grace"

RUTH was looking for some land owner who would be pleased to accept her and to allow her to glean in his fields so that she and **NAOMI** could have their needs provided.

She needed someone who would allow her to do that:

In spite of her nationality.

In spite of her past.

In spite of who she was,

(i.e. She was looking for **GRACE!**)

She may not have known it at this point, but the **GRACE** and **PROVIDENCE** of the **LORD** working in her life would bring her to find both **ACCEPTANCE** and a **PURPOSE!**

She pictures the new born **CHILD OF GOD** who, after coming to know the **LORD**, wants more than anything to just **PLEASE THE LORD!** (*Do you remember that when you first got saved?*)

Matthew 5:6—"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they shall be filled."

She Was Searching For FOOD...For FAVOR...

C. She Was Searching For FULFILLMENT!

Her statement "*Let me now go*", shows that she was itching to be a **BLESSING TO NAOMI**. **RUTH** simply wanted **TO SERVE!**

In this she is again a picture of a new **BELIEVER!**

When a person is **SAVED BY THE GRACE OF GOD**, they should want to do something for the **GLORY OF THE LORD!** They should want to **SERVE JESUS!**

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Remember the man who had the legion of unclean spirits cast out of him by **JESUS**? Look at *Mark 5:1-20*.

This man found fulfillment in telling others about what **JESUS** had done for him!

THE PURPOSE IN RUTH'S SEARCH.

Searching For FOOD...FAVOR...FULFILLMENT!

II. THE PROVIDENCE IN RUTH'S SEARCH! (Vs. 3)

A. It Involved GOD'S COMMAND In The PAST!

RUTH went to a field and began to glean. She was allowed to do this because of a **COMMAND** that **GOD** had given in the past! (*Leviticus 19:9-10; Deuteronomy 24:19-22*)

GOD had worked in the past to take care of **RUTH'S** present need through **HIS WORD!**

The same is true in the life of the **BELIEVER** today! Our **PRESENT STANDING** in **JESUS** was made possible because of what **GOD** did in the ancient past!

We were **CHOSEN** and **ELECTED** in the past **IN CHRIST!** (*Ephesians 1:3-6*) The **PROVISION** of **JESUS** for our **SALVATION** was **PLANNED** before **ADAM** ever **SINNED!** *Revelation 13:8* calls **CHRIST**, "*...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*"

1 Peter 1:20—says that **HE** was, "*...verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you*"

Everything we have and are today is a product of the **PAST WORK OF THE LORD**, and of **HIS GRACE** by **HIS WORD!**

1 Corinthians 15:10—"But by the grace of God I am what I am:

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and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”

The Providence Involved God’s Command In The Past...

B. It Involved GOD’S CONTROL In The PRESENT!

This verse says that it was her *"hap"* to go into a field owned by this man named **BOAZ**. *"Hap"* means *"something met with."*

Some might call it an **COINCIDENT** or in this instance a case of **GOOD FORTUNE**. (Someone might say *"Boy, Ruth sure did get lucky, didn't she!!!"*)

From a human perspective it looked as though this happening was purely **COINCIDENTAL!**

However, from **GOD’S PERSPECTIVE**, it was **HIS SOVEREIGNTY** in action by **HIS PROVIDENCE** and through **HIS GRACE!** **GOD** had already determined that there was going to be a wedding, and a baby for **RUTH!**

RUTH didn't know it, but the **LORD** was pulling all the strings of her life to get her in the right place at the right time.

Did you know that just as the **LORD WORKED IN RUTH’S** life **HE WORKS** in each of our lives? Nothing happens by **accident!** The words **accident, happenstance and coincidence** do not exist in God's dictionary!
(e.g. How my wife and I came to know each other)

GOD MOVES POWERFULLY and **PROVIDENTIALLY** to bring about **HIS WILL** in our lives as **BELIEVERS!**

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Philippians 2:13—*“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”*

That is why we can have confidence as **BELIEVERS! GOD** is always **WORKING IN** or **MOVING IN** our lives to accomplish **HIS PURPOSE** in our lives as **BELIEVERS!**

HIS PURPOSE is to **CONFORM US** into the very **IMAGE OF HIS SON**, the **LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

This is Romans 8:28-31 in action.

Romans 8:28-31—*“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. 31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”*

THE PURPOSE IN RUTH’S SEARCH...PROVIDENCE IN RUTH’S SEARCH.