

## 2:1-2

**There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth,** Other places have this translated as "mighty man of valor." Both are probably correct translations, but the context here requires that we make much of his "stature in money" rather than "stature in war." Gideon and Jephthae are found described thusly in the book of Judges. **Boaz** is in good company.

**of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz.** Now, we realize that neither Naomi nor Ruth are the heroes of this story. Here comes the man. It's a good thing since he's a picture of Jesus. What a beautiful realization that you can come with barrenness, brokenness, and bitterness, and after all the restoration...you have no pressure to be the hero of the story. This is the same stage setting as that which was given to Jesus' arrival (Mark 1:9).

## 2:2

**So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field,** this is the same word translated "country" in 1:1 and "land" in 4:3. Yes, the same Hebrew word can be translated three different ways based on the context. **and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor."** God's "socialism"<sup>1</sup> is spelled out in Leviticus 19:9, Leviticus 23:22, and Deuteronomy 24:19 when He commanded His people to not glean the corners of their fields. This is why Jesus had no issues allowing His disciples to pick food while wandering through fields (Matthew 12; Mark 2:23).

**And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."**

## 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!"**

<sup>5</sup>**Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"** Was she pretty? Was she unrecognized?

<sup>6</sup>**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."<sup>7</sup> **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.

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<sup>1</sup>In other words, welfare and immigration reform are addressed in these chapters.

**<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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.”**

**<sup>10</sup> So she fell on her face, bowed down 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?”** 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.

**<sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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.”**

**<sup>13</sup> Then she said, “Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants.”** “I know I did not grow up with the girls from around here.”

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<sup>n</sup> 1 Sam. 25:41