

IN THE FIELD OF GRACE
RUTH 2:4-17

Introduction:

Ruth was a widow from Moab. In the mind of the average Israelite, she would have been less than nothing and looked upon as a person to be despised and rejected.

Ruth was just a pagan sinner needing someone to show her some grace. We saw last week how Verses 2-3 told us that she went out to hunt for food. This involved her entering fields that belonged to total strangers and falling in line behind that man's servants who were reaping the fields and trying to find a little grain here and there. (i.e. gleaning)

She was looking for just enough to make meals for herself and her mother-in-law for the day. Verse 2 tells us that she went out looking "for grace". Verse 3 describes how she found it!

Even though Ruth didn't know it at the time, God was directing her steps to bring her face to face with a man by the name of Boaz. When she went to glean in his field, she entered the field of grace.

Last week we said that Boaz is a type or picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. His actions in his field that day show us how the Lord Jesus acts toward those of us who are in His field—the Church.

I want us to consider Ruth and Boaz today as we find Ruth "In The Field Of Grace." I want you to notice the picture that Boaz paints of the Lord Jesus Christ and the lessons he teaches us about our Lord!

I. HIS CONSIDERING WORK. (Vs. 4-7)

A. He Was Present In His Field. (Vs. 4-5a)

Hebrews 13:5—"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Matthew 28:20—"I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

1. His Presence Was Personal. (Vs. 4)

Revelation 2:1—"These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;"

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2. His Presence Was By Proxy. (Vs. 5)

Even though Jesus is in heaven today, His Spirit is ever present with the Church - **John 14:16-18.**

3. His Presence Was Pleasant.

Note the gracious greeting between Boaz and his servants. **(Vs. 4)**

Jesus never brings strife or trouble, but always the breath of Heaven and the fragrant breezes of glory!

Psalm 16:11—"Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

He Was Present In His Field...

B. He Was Perceptive Of His Field. (V. 5b-7)

Boaz kept a constant watch on his fields.

In the same way, our heavenly Boaz (Jesus Christ) misses nothing that transpires in His field.

Proverbs 15:3—"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

Matthew 10:29-31—"Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows."

The Lord's eyes are on His Church and He misses nothing that happens. But, He is also interested in us as individuals!

1. His Perception Was Personal. (Vs. 5b)

Ruth caught Boaz's eye!

Jesus loves the individual! We have caught His eye!
He cares about us!

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Jeremiah 31:3—“The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”

Romans 8:38-39—“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

His Perception Was Personal...

2. His Perception Was Powerful. (Vs. 6-7)

Boaz wanted to know about her background, her activities and her motives.

Jesus knows everything there is to know about us without even asking anyone, and yet He still loves us and desires to be with us. I find that amazing!

He calls us saints and we are so sorry most of the time.
He calls us friends and we are such failures.
That is nothing but grace, pure and simple!

HIS CONSIDERING WORK.

II. HIS COMMANDING WORK. (Vs. 8-9)

Boaz had a few words of counsel for Ruth. These commands were designed to encourage her in her work of gleaning. They should also speak to us today as well!

A. His Command Concerning Ruth's Steadfastness. (Vs. 8-9a)

She was commanded to glean in his fields only.

Ruth didn't know it, but Boaz had plans to take care of her. If she would just abide in his field, she would enjoy the best that he had to offer.

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The same is true for the child of God. If we will abide faithful in the LORD's field, He will bless us beyond our wildest dreams!

1 Corinthians 15:57-58—“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

The reason so many miss out on the Lord's best for their lives is that they don't abide in the Lord's field. They glean here and there looking for satisfaction in other places, but they never settle down and make the Lord's will their number one priority!

We can't decide to just glean wherever and whenever we want and expect God to bless us!

God is looking for faithful stewards! (1 Corinthians 4:2)

His Command Concerning Ruth's Steadfastness...

B. His Command Concerning Ruth's Safety. (Vs. 9b)

Boaz had commanded the men to leave her alone.

Boaz was making sure that no one took unfair advantage of Ruth. He was telling her not to worry, he had taken care of the details for her and she could trust him to look after her!

What a lesson there is for the Church in that right there!

We can trust our Lord to take care of us!

He is more concerned over our welfare than we are!

Romans 8:28—“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.”

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2 Corinthians 4:17—“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”

His Command Concerning Ruth’s Steadfastness...Safety...

C. His Command Concerning Ruth's Supply. (Vs. 9c)

Boaz made sure she knew that he had everything she needed to be satisfied.

So it is with the children of the Lord. He has all we need to be satisfied as we walk through this world. If only we would learn to appropriate that which He has already provided! Jesus has and is all we need!

He is rest for the weary. Matt. 11:28, Psa. 23:2-3.

He is refreshment for the thirsty. John 7:37, Psa. 23:2.

He is food for the hungry. John 6:35; Psa. 23:5.

He is healing to the injured. Psa. 23:5.

He is hope for the discouraged, Psa. 23:5-6.

He is shelter for the frightened, Psa. 23:4.

He is all you need! Have you discovered that truth yet?

It is summed up in *Psalms 23:1 - "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."*

HIS CONSIDERING WORK...HIS COMMANDING WORK...

III. HIS COMFORTING WORK. (Vs. 10-14)

A. Her Amazement. (Vs. 10)

Ruth finds herself humbled by his grace.

There are times when the thought of what Christ has done for us is just overwhelming! (Philippians 2:5-11; Isa. 53:1-12)

Does God’s grace still amaze you?

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Her Amazement...

B. His Announcement. (Vs. 11-12)

Boaz told Ruth that he knew about her deeds and he knew about her faith in the Lord. He prayed that she would receive a full reward for the service she had rendered to Naomi!

Just a word here for any saint that may be struggling today! People may call into question our actions and our motives, but the Lord knows our heart. (1 Samuel 16:7)

One day, there will be a full reward given to the faithful child of God.

2 Timothy 4:6-8—“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

C. Her Appeal. (Vs. 13)

She was still looking for grace and didn't even fully realize that she had walked right into the middle of a field full of grace!

She just wanted to please Boaz. He had been good to her and she wanted to do that which pleased him.

That needs to be the attitude and goal of every child of God! Stop trying to live your life to please everybody in the world and just live it to please the Lord!

That will make your life real simple, real fast! He is already pleased positionally.

We are as righteous as we are ever going to be. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

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Nevertheless, we need to live our lives day by day in such a way that pleases the Lord. How? By loving Him, worshiping Him, and by putting Him ahead of everything else in this world.

Her Amazement...His Announcement...Her Appeal...

D. His Acceptance. (Vs. 14)

There are a few things that Boaz did in this verse that prove beyond all doubts that Ruth had found favor in his eyes.

1. He Sat With Her.

He invited her to join him for a meal at the table and sat close enough to her to pass the corn. He didn't care about her past. She had captured his heart.

Our past is no barrier between us and the Lord when it has been dealt with in salvation. We are brought into a position of nearness to Him.

2. He Supped With Her.

This speaks of close fellowship.

There are times in life when the Lord will "sup" with His children. (Revelation 3:20)

He desires that we be close to Him so that He might fill our lives with His best!

3. He Satisfied Her.

When Ruth left that table she was satisfied!

There is no need for a child of God to be unfulfilled as a believer.!

The Lord has provided all the resources we need to be filled above measure with His goodness and glory!

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Our duty is to receive what He gives us and to enjoy it to the full! We have already been blessed to the full!
Ephesians 1:3—"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:"

There is no excuse for defeat and dissatisfaction in the Christian life!

*HIS CONSIDERING WORK...COMMANDING WORK...
COMFORTING WORK.*

IV. HIS CONCEALING WORK. (Vs. 15-17)

After Ruth left the table, Boaz continued to work in her absence. He was even working behind her back to take care of her.

A. We See His Work Of Providence.

He made some decisions behind the scenes that affected her life.

He was working for her good, even when she didn't know it!

The Lord is always working behind the scenes in your life and mine to bring about His best for us. That's what is called His Sovereignty and Providence.

B. We See His Work Of Provision.

Boaz commanded his men to drop "*handfuls of purpose.*" Why? He wanted Ruth to get so much in his field that she wouldn't want to go anywhere else!

That is how the Lord operates on our behalf! He is so good to His children, that no one in their right spiritual mind would ever consider gleaning anywhere else!

Praise God for His "Handfuls on Purpose" in our lives. I'm talking about those times when He blesses us just because He can!

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C. **We See His Work Of Plenty.**

When Ruth left that day, she left carrying a half-bushel of grain. More than enough to feed her and Naomi for a week.

There are times in our lives when the Lord will simply load our wagon! i.e. He gives us more than we need.

Conclusion

Ruth had no worries when she was in the field of grace.

No one harassed her, no one hindered her.

She rested when she was weary.

She ate when she was hungry.

She drank when she was thirsty.

Her every need was met by the grace of Boaz which was in reality the grace of God working in her life!

When you are saved and are gleaning in the field of the Lord's grace, you will find all you need.

Are you in that field?

Are you gleaning in that field?

Would you like to get into that field?

If so, there's still plenty to go around in the field of grace owned by our heavenly Boaz.

If you need grace, come to Him today. In His presence, you will find all you will ever need!