

## Ruth 2:1-23      RUTH-[2]-IN the WAY

PRELIMS. Last week we looked at Ruth being ‘called out’ of Moab; her heart and desire was toward the people of God and the place where God visited His people. Even after going through the ‘tortures’ of tearing herself away from all that she knew and loved, she still made the hard decision to follow God and His people and **turn away** from false idols and pleasures! The **power of God!**

### YOUR LIFE is HID in GOD

Right up until now, God **the Father** had been pre-eminent in her understanding of reality and in her theology! The God of Israel – who is the only living and true God was now ‘big’ in her life.

But now God the Father was going to show her someone else – God **the Son**, the **Saviour** of the **world!** It is God who reveals Jesus to us! Paul says about himself “*when He who set me apart before I was **born**, and who **called** me by His grace, was pleased to **reveal His Son** in me*”[Gal 1:15]! He later wrote “*God is faithful, by whom you were **called** into the **fellowship** of His **Son, Jesus Christ** our Lord*”[1Cor1:9]! John wrote “*indeed our fellowship is with the Father **and** with His **Son** Jesus Christ*”[1J1:3] God was about to show Ruth that, Boaz, her **actual goel-redeemer**, was a picture of what Jesus Christ does for His people.

It is God in His providence, who reveals Jesus to us! God is introducing Ruth to a **person** who has the **characteristics** of Jesus Christ. Someone who will show her **unconditional love** and **favour!** Someone with whom she will have a **personal intimate relationship!** One who is truly her **redeemer!** So far, she doesn’t even know such a person exists – and yet **God is leading her** on and on. “*Your way was through the sea, Your path through the great waters, yet Your **footprints** were **unseen**. You led Your people like a flock*”[Psa 77:19] Paul said God’s “***ways** (paths) are past finding out*”[R11:33] “*I will lead the **blind** in a **way** that they do **not know**, in **paths** that they have **not known**”*[Isa 42:16]

Being saved is a **process!** Paul said “*I am sure of this, that He who*

**began** a good work in you will bring it to **completion**...”[Phil 1:6]

The **original** readers of this Book, after reading verse [1], would **immediately guess** what was coming next! We don’t because we are from a completely different **culture**. Reading “*Naomi had a relative of her husband*” their minds would immediately **jump** to the idea of a redeemer!! The author is giving a **clue** to his readers what is about to happen next.

They would guess that God was fulfilling **His purposes!** God’s plan was being fulfilled. Paul told Timothy “*do not be ashamed of the testimony*” because he was saved and called for a **purpose!** “*God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works, but because of His own purpose and grace*”! And He planned it “*before the ages began*”[2T1:8,9] Life is for a **purpose** – and **your** life is for a **purpose!** Peter talks of being ‘redeemed andransomed by the blood of Christ and was now “*made manifest*”! God was now **making manifest** to Ruth her Redeemer!

### **‘I MUST FIND a JOB’**

“*Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain*”[2] A modern-day phrase would be ‘**I must find a job!**’ Paul commanded “*If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat*”![2The3:10] No **‘handouts’** in these days! Ruth didn’t say, ‘I’m now among God’s people, where He called me – I will just wait, I need do nothing, He will provide! No! Since the Fall we’ve to **earn** our living!

She considered herself her mother-in-law’s **‘carer’!** How lovely! It was now **‘pay-back’ time**. But she first **conferred/consulted** with her! “*Let me go to the field...*” ‘Is it all right with you?’ **Apply!**

She **trusts Providence!** “*...after him in whose sight I shall find favour*”[2]! She believed that if you ‘seek...you will find’. God provides food for the birds, but He does not throw it into the nest’! God commanded farmers not to reap the corners of the field!

Would she turn to left or to the right? “*...and she happened to come to the part of the field*”[3] While **she** was **not aware where**

she had landed – it was **no accident** that she ‘happened to come’ to the field of Boaz! How **true** that “*In all your ways **acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths***”[Pr3:6]

## **ENTER BOAZ**

Enter Boaz! **Industrial relations!** What a wonderful entry! What a wonderful **Employer/Employee Relations!** Can you imagine your boss coming in tomorrow morning and saying to “*The Lord be with you*”? And can you imagine your working colleagues replying “*The Lord bless you*”?[4] Well, it was **meant** to be like that!

He **knows** what’s **going on** in His vineyard! “*Whose young woman is this?*”[5] X knows when **someone new comes** to **church** and He wants to know who you are and **why** you are here. **Welcomes** you?

There are **three positive ‘P’s** which Boaz engages in! **(1)** Just like Jesus, Boaz **Provides** for Ruth! He says ‘Take all you want!’ “*Let your eyes be on the fields...*”[9] That is just like Jesus “*Come to Me...Take My yoke*” to **ease your burden** ! You can have as **much** of Christ as you **want**! You are **invited** to know “*with all the saints what is the **breadth** and **length** and **height** and **depth***” of the “*love of Christ that **surpasses** knowledge, that you may be **filled** with all the **fullness** of God*”[Eph 3:19]

Boaz **commanded** his servants to “*pull out some from the bundles **for her** and leave it **for her** to glean*”[16] God **commanded** the **ravens** to **feed** His servant Elijah! Jesus said “*Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not receive **many times more** in this time, **and** in the age to come eternal life*” [L18:29] God **has** provided stores of treasures for His people. But some **neglect** to search and seek them out – **if Ruth did not go out** to glean she would have **missed** these very special ‘bundles’ which Boaz had ‘**arranged**’ for her – because he **loved** her!!

**(2)** Boaz **Protected her!** “*Have I not charged the young men not to touch you*”[9]! Have you ever wondered how you have never had a serious accident in the car? I do. I honestly think God sends

an angel out every time I go out in the car!! Up and down the A9 protected all the way! God has trained a whole host **angels**, visible and invisible, **waiting** for the command to minister to this saint and that saint! There **are** “*ministering spirits sent out to serve...those who are to inherit salvation*”[Hb1:14] Jesus had a **legion** of angels – but He did not call upon them. But, you and I **can** on them!!

(3) Boaz gave her **Promises** for the **future**! “*Besides*” he said I could glean “...*until they have finished all my harvest*”[21], ie, until there is no more to glean! Right to the very end!

Yet there was a **condition**. “*Now listen, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women*”[8] **APP** The worst thing a person can do is to turn their back on Christ. Do not forsake the people of God – because they are the **very body** of Christ! You must not wander away to other pastures – you must be where Christ is! **Keep close fellowship!**

Ruth could hardly believe it all! And that is the way with every Xn “*Why have I found favour in Your eyes, that You should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner*”[10]! Friends – if **you** have not **marvelled** at **why** God has **chosen** you and taken **notice** of you, I wonder have you enjoyed the freedom X gives His people! David said “*What can I render to the Lord for all His gifts to me?*”

Perhaps the **greatest blessing** Ruth received from Boaz was ‘she was in his prayers – he interceded for her’! “*The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord*”[12] Look: “*He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since he always lives to make intercession for them*”[Heb 7:25] + “*I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom You have given me, for they are Yours*”[John 17:9] \*\*Ruth’s **response: Gratitude and trust!** She **acknowledged** his kindness “*You have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, although I am not one of your servants*”[13] ‘I am just an **outsider** who has come in! **APP** Have **you thanked** God? \*Do you **trust** God Ruth was satisfied “*had some left over*”[14]!