

Theme: God's loving-kindness toward us is often revealed through the acts of His faithful servants. His kindness extends to those "outside" His kingdom and family – making them "insiders" who enjoy his provision and protection.

Background:

- Leviticus 19:9-10; 23:22 - gleaning
- Leviticus 25:25f – laws concerning redeeming of land
- Deuteronomy 25:5ff – laws concerning Levirate marriage

Introduction: Inside or Outside?

I. Meet "Boaz"!

- We are in on the secret!
- Introduced before he enters the story.

II. *The Fervor of Ruth*

- A. They have to eat!
 - Gleaning?
 - Risky Business
- B. Seeks special permission (2,7)
- C. The field of Boaz
 - 1. Providence Disguised
 - 2. Look who's coming – "Behold!"
 - ?? Whose young woman?
 - A detailed answer – vv.6 & 7

NOTE: Ruth is shown to be an admirable character. She is a *true Israelite!*

III. *The Favor of Boaz* (8-9, 15, 16, 22)

- A. A well-known situation - v.11
- B. Ruth gains permission
- C. *Great Favor bestowed on Ruth!*
 - Set on outer edge of the inner circle
 - "Most favored gleaner" as one commentator put it.

D. Her great surprise.

1. Favor to a foreigner?? v.10
2. Seeking the blessing of Yahweh for her. v.12
- “Find refuge under His wing”

E. **Ruth moves from being an “Outsider” to “Insider.”**

1. Finding favor
2. Eating with the household

IV. The Report to Naomi

A. Blessing comes to Naomi

- *Where were you? Whose field?*

B. Blessing the benefactor (19b)

1. Before his identity is revealed
2. After the discovery/revelation?
- The Lord’s **Kindness (Hesed – lovingkindness!)**

C. He is a close relative (near).

- The hope of a *redeemer*.

V. Under the Lord’s Wing

A. The Unseen hand of the Lord

B. Boaz’s Prayer – v.12

- God uses him to help answer his own prayer
- He is the instrument of the Lord’s “wing” over her.

Application/Thoughts:

1. God’s care for the poor

- God to put his “wing” over Ruth and Naomi. v.12
- How can we work to see the poor under His wing?

2. Coming from the “outside” to the “inside”

- Jesus makes outsiders *Insiders!!*

Election: Ephesians 1:4,5; John 10:28-30; John 6:37

Decision: Luke 11:9; Isaiah 55:6,7