

BOOK OF RUTH
GOOD NEWS FROM THE FIELD OF GRACE
RUTH 2:17-23

Introduction

Last time we were in the Book of Ruth, we saw that Ruth the Moabitess had gone to the field of Boaz to glean barley. While she was there, she met the owner of the field. She caught his eye. She ate lunch at his table and he personally served her the food.

When she left the field that day, she left with more than she bargained for. She returned home that evening weary and tired from her labors, but she had a story to tell Naomi.

All day, her mother-in-law Naomi would have been waiting for her to return with enough grain for a little meal. When Ruth finally did return, she was loaded down with enough grain to last them a week. Not only did she have grain, but she had some good news to tell as well.

I want us to look at that good news today. It is news that we all need to hear, because this **Good News From The Field Of Grace** can help each of us to grow in our own walk with the Lord.

There are some mighty big truths here for those who are willing to grab hold of them this morning. Allow me to share with you this **Good News From The Field Of Grace**.

I. RUTH HAD SOME GOOD NEWS ABOUT THEIR PROVISIONS! (Vs. 17-18)

A. Ruth Had Provisions That Were Designed To Satisfy! (Vs. 17)

When Ruth returned home, she had 25lbs of barley. That was more than enough to feed these 2 women for a week.

She went looking for enough for one meal and returned with enough to feed them for a week.

Boaz wanted her to get so much in his field that she would never even dream of gleaning anywhere else.

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Could I tell you that our Heavenly Boaz is determined to bless His people too!

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.”

The Lord wants to give us so much that we will never think of going anywhere else to glean.

Ruth's words to Naomi in verse 21 serve to show that their blessings would continue until the end of the harvest.

Our Lord will bless us right until the end of the harvest here in this world. But, our Lord doesn't intend to stop blessing us even when we leave this world. Oh how He blesses us now, but He will really bless us then!

Ephesians 2:7—“That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”

Ruth Had Provisions That Were Designed To Satisfy. . .

B. Ruth Had Provisions That Were Designed To Show! (Vs. 18)

Can you see Ruth as she throws that 25lb across her shoulder and heads into the city?

Everyone who saw her pass by knew that she was that girl from Moab.

They knew she and Naomi came to town with nothing and by now most of them knew she had gone to the field of Boaz to glean.

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But they could also see that she had received a blessing by just watching her go past.

I think that Boaz might have been making a statement to the community.

That sack of grain was his way of saying, *"I've got my eye on Ruth, and I'm going to be a blessing in her life."*

Did you know that God's blessings in our lives are designed to show a lost world just how good God is.

He blesses His people in order to create a desire in the hearts those who do not know Him. That is why He gives us grace for living. He wants to use us as living testimonies to His grace, His power and His glory.

Matthew 5:16—“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

As we live out the real blessings of God, this world is going to be affected by God's work in us!

What are the real blessings of God? It is a life that manifests the fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:2-23—“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

A child of God who displays these graces in his or her life is a child of God who walks in victory!

Ruth Had Provisions That Were Designed To Satisfy...
Ruth Had Provisions That Were Designed To Show...

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**C. Ruth Had Provisions That Were Designed To Share!
(Vs. 18)**

Not only did she share the bounty of her provision with Naomi, but she also shared the remaining part of her portion that she was given by Boaz in verse 14.

Ruth wasn't selfish, she wanted to share what she had with Naomi.

Did you know that we are not to simply horde up the blessings of the Lord, but we are to share them with others?

Whatever we have been blessed with by God has been given to us to use for His glory. Whether it be a talent, God's truth, a gift, financial resources, or whatever,

His blessings are given to us so that we might share them with others.

Ruth received what she did because of God's good grace, but also because she was willing to work for it! She gleaned and she got more than she gleaned!

The same is true in spiritual matters! God gives us so much more than we put into it, but He expects us to apply ourselves!

Whether it be prayer, worship or just victory in our daily life, it isn't for the lazy! God's best is reserved for those who are willing to deny themselves, take up His cross daily and follow Him. (Matthew 16:24)

RUTH HAD SOME GOOD NEWS ABOUT THEIR PROVISIONS...
Designed To Satisfy
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II. RUTH HAD SOME GOOD NEWS ABOUT A PERSON!
(Vs. 19-21)

A. Boaz Was A Person Who Was Interested In Their Situation! (Vs. 19)

When Naomi saw all that Ruth had returned with, she was overwhelmed and began to magnify the person who had given so much.

She could easily see that Ruth didn't get that much by merely gleaning!

She knew that someone had blessed them with an open hand! She blessed the person who *"has taken knowledge of"* Ruth! The word "knowledge" conveys the idea of *"paying attention to; to acknowledge; to notice"*.

Naomi realized that the person who gave them this grain had noticed Ruth and wanted to be a special blessing to her.

Naomi didn't know it at this point, and neither did Ruth, but Ruth had been noticed by one who was interested in knowing her even better. He was interested in her situation! **(2:11-12)**

Could I tell you something? The Lord Jesus is interested in you! Wherever you may be today in your spiritual journey, Jesus is interested in knowing you better!

If you are lost, He is interested in knowing you in salvation.

If you are cold and backslidden, He is interested in your return to Him so that you can know Him intimately.

If you are defeated, He is interested in leading you to the place of power and victory.

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The question is: Are you interested in what He has to offer you?

Boaz Was A Person Who Was Interested In Their Situation...

B. Boaz Was A Person Who Was Involved In Their Situation! (Vs. 19)

Not only was Boaz interested in Ruth's situation, he was also involved in her and Naomi's situation. He had opened his hands and his heart to Ruth and took steps to improve her and Naomi's condition. (2:11; 2:15-16.)

Boaz was busy working behind the scenes to see that Ruth's needs were met! He was involved in her life!

Our heavenly Boaz is also involved in our lives! Now there are times when He cannot be seen and there are times when His Hand is not visible, but we can rest assured that He is actively working on our behalf to fulfill His plan for our lives!

C. Boaz Was A Person Who Was The Instrument In Their Situation! (Vs. 20-21)

Boaz didn't even realize the extent that he was being used in the lives of these two women. He had become an instrument in the hand of the Lord. There are three ways in which Boaz was being used by God as an instrument of blessing.

1. Boaz Was An Instrument Of Revival.

In Chapter 1:20-21, we saw that Naomi was a defeated and discouraged woman. She was that way because of her backslidden condition.

However, when Ruth returned from the field of grace with the good news of Boaz, Naomi was once more restored to the place of worship and victory.

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God had used this man to encourage the heart of one of His children.

You might be in a position this morning in which you have allowed your heart to grow cold and hard toward the things of the Lord.

I just want to remind you that if you are His, He knows where you are and one day, He will show up and set things right in your heart and life.

He'll do that for you today, if you'll let him!

Just because you are down, it doesn't mean that you are out! One of the first steps in getting back in the place of His best blessings is to come before Him and deal with whatever is lacking in your life.

That is the challenge we have from the Word of God. (1 John 1:9; Psalm. 51:1-13 - Great Grandson David)

Boaz Was An Instrument Of Revival.

2. Boaz Was An Instrument Of Redemption.

As Naomi listened to Ruth speak, the wheels of her mind no doubt were turning.

She heard the name Boaz and she recognized that he is "*near of kin*". She remembered who he was and said, "*he is one of our next kinsmen*".

Then, she began to realize all that the LORD was doing. In His providence, the LORD had brought Ruth into contact with one who had the right of redemption according to the Law. (Leviticus 25:25-34)

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You can almost see her regaining her spiritual confidence.

Remember that under the Law of Redemption, for a man to be a Kinsman Redeemer three things had to be true:

a. **He Had To Be Related - Boaz was related (2:1)**

So is Jesus! - **Hebrews 2:14-15; John 1:1, 14)**

b. **He Had To Be Able To Redeem - Boaz was a mighty man of wealth. (2:1)**

Jesus is able to redeem all who come to Him for salvation - **Hebrews 7:25.**

c. **He Had To Be Willing To Redeem.**

Everything Boaz was doing suggested that he was willing to do anything to get to know Ruth.

Jesus was more than willing to pay the price for our redemption. *Romans 5:8—"But God commendeth His love. . ."*

These women needed a redeemer. If they didn't find one, they were destined to live their lives in poverty.

If you are not saved, you need a redeemer!
You have one if you will accept Him.
His name is Jesus and He died for you!

If you are saved, take a minute to think back over what the Lord has done for you, you will have to admit that you have many reasons to praise His Name and to rejoice in Him this morning! Are you doing it?

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Boaz Was An Instrument Of Revival.
Boaz Was An Instrument Of Redemption.

3. Boaz Was An Instrument Of Refreshment.

Ruth told Naomi in verse 21 that she would be going back to the field of grace to work until the harvest ended. In other words, they were going to enjoy plenty because of this man named Boaz.

I would imagine that every day Boaz reminded the reapers to drop the "*Handfuls of Purpose*" for Ruth. Everyday he would see that she had parched corn, a cool drink of water and all the grain she could carry when she left the field. He was going to be a blessing to Naomi and Ruth.

Just a reminder to those of you who are living on spiritual scraps this morning, Jesus wants to load your wagon!

He has glory, and power, and victory and blessing for every one of His children. But, it isn't for the lazy.

Romans 8:37–“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”

1 Corinthians 15:57–“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

For Ruth to get what Boaz wanted her to have she would have to go to the field of grace every day (day by day) and put forth some effort.

It is the same way in the spiritual realm. If we want the best, then we have to pay the price in prayer, holiness and time spent in communion with the Lord.

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Our walk with the Lord is no stronger, no deeper, and no greater than we want it to be! If there is a lack in our life spiritually, it's not someone else's fault.

If we want to see the problem, we need to look no farther than the nearest mirror. Better yet, look no farther than our own heart, for there lies the problem and the solution.

Our help lies in one of David's Psalms of repentance. (Psalm 32:1-5)

Conclusion:

Let me ask you some questions.

Did you need to hear some of these truths this morning?

Does your relationship and fellowship with the Lord need help today?

The first step to take is a step in His direction. If He has challenged you as a believer about your personal walk with Him, then come to this altar and do something about it!

If He has shown you that you are lost and headed to Hell, then come down here and receive Jesus as your Savior and let God change the outcome and direction of your life.

There's good news from the field of grace! But, it will never help you until you deal with it on a personal level!