

## Ruth – Part 6

Ruth 2:14-17

What a beautiful picture we have in the book of Ruth of God's grace. We've looked in Chapter 1 and part of Chapter 2, and as we look in verse 14 of Ruth Chapter 2, we see more grace. It says there, *And Boaz said unto her... this is to Ruth... At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left.*

We see food here. Ruth was honored to be able to sit and eat with the reapers. Ruth had actually done nothing to deserve such favor as Boaz was bestowing upon her, as we read this. She was not only permitted to sit and eat with the reapers; Boaz actually gave her food to eat. She ate until she had eaten enough to satisfy. The word "suffice" there means to satisfy her hunger.

Well, you know that Jesus also says to all understanding and undeserving sinners, come and dine. In John 21:12, *Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.*

In Ruth 2:15-16, the Bible says: <sup>15</sup>*And when she was risen up to glean... this is Ruth now... Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not: <sup>16</sup>And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her...* In other words, do it on purpose. Let some of the things fall on the ground there. Let some of the things come into her hands. And it says there, *And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her not.* This is a grace experience.

Boaz told his young men to let Ruth not only have the leftovers, and this is the gleanings, but

to also let her have the best pickings, the number one of the crop. And Boaz even tells these young men to purposely leave some of the best of the crop for Ruth in verse 16.

Verse 17 goes on to say, *So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley.* This is an honest day's work. Ruth had started gleaning early, according to verse 7, and she stayed late until even. Then she went on to process what she had gleaned. She was not lazy.

Boaz ate with a stranger from a world of sin and death, Ruth 2:14. Christ also ate with people from a world of sin and death. In Luke 11:37, it says, *And as he spake, a certain Pharisee besought him to dine with him: and he went in, and sat down to meat.*

Luke 15:2: *And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.*

And Luke 5:30: *But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?*

Why would Jesus visit and eat in sinners' homes? The answer is found in Mark 2:15 and Luke 19:10. Mark 2:15 says, *And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples... and notice this... for there were many, and they followed him.* They got saved. Luke 19:10 says, *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

Jesus offers all strangers in this world of sin and death food for the soul. He offers life-giving nourishment to all, whosoever will. Jesus says to all of us, "Come and dine." And this reminds me of the old hymn that says, "Come and Dine." *Jesus has a table spread where the saints of God are fed. He invites His chosen people, "Come and dine." With His manna He doth feed and supplies our every need. O 'tis sweet to sup with Jesus all the time!*

The chorus goes on to say:  
*"Come and dine," the Master calleth, "Come and dine"; You may feast at Jesus' table all the time; He Who fed the multitude, turned the water into wine, To the hungry calleth now, "Come and dine."*

Are you hungry? Do you know Jesus as your Savior today? You're hungry. You need the bread of life. And that old song, "Come and Dine," goes on to say:

*Soon the Lamb will take His bride, and if you're saved today, take heart because the Lamb is getting ready to come back. Jesus Christ is getting ready to come back for His bride. It says, Soon the Lamb will take His bride to be ever at His side. All the host of Heaven will assembled be. O 'twill be a glorious sight, All the saints in spotless white; And with Jesus they will feast eternally.*

Will you be one of the saints the songs speaks of? You can be by receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and your Savior while there's still time. The Bible says, *Behold, now is the day of salvation*, II Corinthians 6:2, and if you are one of His saints, He invites you to come and dine right now. Dine upon His Word. Jesus wants to save and He wants to lead His saved people. He wants you to grow as a saved person. And He wants you as a person who does not know Him to come to Him to glean in the field, to receive

what He has for you. And you know, He doesn't have the leftovers for you. He's got the real thing. He's got the best for you. Only Jesus can give eternal life, and He wants you to come today and receive Him as Savior.

Well, we see here as we continue on in the book of Ruth in verse 17 where Ruth gleaned. And verse 17 says, *So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about ephah of barley.* An ephah of barley in the Hebrew measure was about seven and a half gallons. This was a good day's work, and it wouldn't be light either. It would be something that she had to carry that and it wouldn't be easy, even carrying that amount.

Notice verse 18 of Ruth Chapter 2: *And she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw... She looked and she saw... what she had gleaned: and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed.* This is the result of gleaning. God led Ruth as she would follow Him and followed Boaz's instruction. God led Ruth in her choice of fields so that she came face to face with the one man God had chosen to redeem her and marry her later on. I'm getting ahead of the account here, but it's so wonderful to understand that this is God's message of love that we're reading in the book of Ruth between a man and a woman. We see a likeness, a perfect likeness here of God's relationship to man, how that His message of love is "Come unto me and I will give you rest. I'll take care of you."

Well, God had led her. I don't believe it was just by chance. It was something that God had done. He led her here. And we see in this Chapter 2 of Ruth God's grace. We see that in verse 2. And we also see God's favor in verse 13, and then in verse 20, we see God's kindness here.

In Ruth 2:2 it says, *And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.* Well, as we keep reading there, we see the favor in verse 13 and the kindness in verse 20, but notice that Boaz protects Ruth. He not only shows her grace in allowing her to glean in the field and to eat with his maidens and giving her food himself, but Boaz protects Ruth and provides for her and he takes care of her long before he marries her. And this is a perfect illustration of our Lord's provision for us.

In Matthew 6:25, it says: *Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?*

And Matthew 6:31: *Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?*

And then that familiar verse, Philippians 4:19 says, *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

It's one thing to say God takes care of you now that you're saved. It's another thing to think He took care of you even before you were saved. Think about before you gave your life to Jesus. Was there ever a time when somebody someway or somehow when you needed help and didn't know where to find the help you needed it came? Was there ever a time when you received help in a time of need? Was there ever a time, as you think back now, that you should have been killed but somehow you escaped the hand of death? Well, before Boaz married Ruth, he was taking care of her. Boaz loved Ruth even before they married. God loves us even before we become one of His children. He loves us and He wants us to be saved. He

wants us to go to Heaven. Once again, Romans 5:8 says, *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

In I John 4:9, it says, *In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.*

The old song says in part, "The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen could ever tell. It goes beyond the highest star." God loves each of us today. Whether you know Him as your Savior or not, He still loves you, but He can't bestow on you everything He wants to give you if you have never trusted Jesus as your Savior. He wants you to know His Son today as your Lord and Savior. He wants to give you eternal life if you will simply trust Him as your Savior.

And as a saved person, if you have trusted Jesus as your Savior, He wants to give you everything that you deserve. Now, of course, you know, before we stop and think of this, and I've said "that you deserve," you know, we all deserve Hell, but He doesn't want us to have that. He wants us to have everything that we deserve in Him. We deserve because Jesus Christ died for us and He's given it to us and we deserve it now because we've trusted Him as our Savior. It's not through our strength. It's not through something that takes us to Heaven through our own means in a way that we choose. It's what He's chosen for us. He chose to die for us on the cross of Calvary, and He chose that you should be saved. And because you are saved and you've trusted Him as your Savior, you have everything. You have eternal life and you have the promise of one day seeing your Savior face to face.

Won't you serve Him today? Trust Him if you've never trusted Him. As a saved person, you need to trust Him to take you and lead you

and guide you and help you through this world that we live in.

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