

Ruth – Part 5

Ruth 2:8-13

In Ruth Chapter 2, we see a young lady by the name of Ruth. We also see her mother-in-law, Naomi. Ruth, of course, was the widow of Mahlon and this was Naomi's son. Naomi's son had died along with her husband and her other son in Moab.

Now, Naomi and Ruth both were back in Bethlehem-Judah, the house of bread, and as we look in Chapter 2, we see how that Ruth had gone into the fields to glean. She was to go in and get what was left over after the harvesters went through, but we also understand that, as we read and study the book of Ruth in this second chapter, how that, I believe, she was allowed to go in even before the harvesters were finished. Now, according to the book of Leviticus, this was not the way to do it, but I believe that, as we read this, we see that Ruth found grace in the sight of Boaz. And you and I find grace in the sight of God when we look to Him and we trust Jesus Christ as our Savior.

Well, in Chapter 2 Ruth has gone into the field. She's harvesting, and Boaz comes to her, and in verses 8-9, it says, *⁸Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens: ⁹Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.*

And I see here special favor and it's clear that Ruth is the subject of verse 8, because it says, *Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter?* He's looking to Ruth and he's speaking to her. It's also clear that Boaz has taken a special interest in Ruth. He said, *Go not to glean in another field, neither go from*

hence, and I also see that Boaz had decided to keep Ruth close, very close. He said, *Abide here fast by my maidens*. And Boaz tells Ruth to look on the field and do what the other maidens are doing... reap. This is in verse 9.

In John 4:35, the Bible says, *Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.*

And then in Luke 10:2, it says, *Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.*

If you know Jesus Christ as your Savior, today is the day of harvest. Today is the time that we need to be busy. When I say it's the day of harvest, we don't know how long we have on this earth as human beings. We're born today, and the Bible says your life is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. And that not only goes for the unsaved people of this world. That's for the saved person. We have a short time. Even if we would live to be a hundred and fifty years old, that is a short time compared to eternity.

As we think of that, we need to be busy, because the harvest is here. Jesus, I believe, is ready to step out and say, "Come up hither," and receive His Church, receive those of us who have trusted Him as Savior during this time that He is.... The Bible says we've been grafted in. We know Jesus Christ because he had grace toward us. He loved us so much that He sent His only begotten Son to die for us on the cross of Calvary that you and I could be saved.

So you and I, as saved people, we need to be busy, and we need to tell others about Jesus Christ and how that they, too, can go to Heaven one day. Ruth had done nothing to earn the privileges Boaz bestowed upon her. He said, *When thou are athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.*

And once again in the book of John 4:13-15, it says, ¹³*Jesus answered and said unto her, **Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:** ¹⁴**But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.** ¹⁵*The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.**

In John 6:35, *And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.***

Jesus Christ is all in all. He offers the living water. He offers the bread of life. It's Him. He is the bread of life. He is the water of life. He is the giver of eternal life, and all of those who will trust Him as Savior will never perish. We have eternal life through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Next, I see that Ruth humbles herself in the presence of grace. In Ruth 2:10, it says, *Then she fell on her face... after Boaz had said stay here; glean; get what you need... and it says, **she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?*** There's a wonderment here, and it's a wonder to me how that God could have so much grace and He loves us so much.

Ephesians 2:12 says, *That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.*

Ephesians 2:19 says, *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God.* We are fellow citizens with all the saints of all ages. We know Jesus Christ as our Savior and we were once aliens from the commonwealth. In other words, we were once aliens from God, from Jesus Christ, but once we trusted Him, we became fellow citizens of the saints in glory and all the saints that will be born hereafter, those people who trust Jesus Christ as Savior.

The Bible goes on to say in Matthew 25:35, it says you gave me meat, drink, and you took me in. This is what happened with Boaz. Boaz was exhibiting to Ruth what Christ would later say in the Gospels about good servants. He said, ***For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink.*** This in essence is what we say. We should be saying this: Lord, thank You for giving me life. Thank You for giving me what I need, and what I need is found in the book, that is, the Bible. That is our bread today. As we read, we get our nourishment from the Word of God.

As we look in verses 11-12, I see that kindness pays off. It says, *And Boaz answered and said unto her, **It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband...*** Remember, Ruth came back with Naomi and she was very good to Naomi. She stood by her and no doubt she comforted her in the loss of her husband and her two sons. It goes on to say, *and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore.*

¹²The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust. Ruth was saved. She had trusted the Lord to save her. She had followed Naomi. She followed a godly saint who knew God, who knew about Heaven, and she, too, had come to that saving knowledge of knowing she would one day be in Heaven, and now Boaz said, because of this, I'm going to allow you to have full privilege here in this field.

Well, Ruth's faithfulness had not gone unnoticed according to verse 12, and Boaz asked God's blessings for Ruth in verse 12. Do you know that your faithfulness to God just as Ruth's will not go unnoticed.

Luke 11:33 says, *No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light.*

In Matthew 6:6: *But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*

Stay true to the Lord. Stay humble. Ruth was humble. She was a humble servant, and we need to be humble servants of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Verse 13 of Ruth 2 says, *Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord... of course, she already had, and it goes on to say... for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens.*

Well, I see here that Ruth is requesting favor, favor requested. Ruth did not take comfort for granted, according to verse 13. Ruth requested favor in Boaz's sight, although she had already

been comforted. It says, *Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord, for that thou hast comforted me.*

Ruth was a humble person. How can a person be humble before God and hold the truth of being bold at the same time? Hebrews 4:16 talks about that. It says, *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

I want you to notice Ruth 2:13. *Thou hast spoken friendly... she said... unto thine handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens.* Although she was not one of Boaz's handmaidens, she had been treated as good as one of Boaz's handmaidens and she had made her request known to Boaz humbly. When we bring our petitions to the Lord, when we go to Him and ask Him for something, we need to approach the throne of grace humbly as Ruth did with Boaz, but she made her request humbly, but it was also bold, not in an arrogant way, but respectfully so.

And so we, too, are to approach our Heavenly Father with a humble boldness. Once again, it says in Hebrews 4:16, *Let us therefore come boldly.* And then in Hebrews 4:14-15, if we back up in that chapter of Hebrews, it says, *¹⁴Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. ¹⁵For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

How can we come boldly to God? It's all because we have found favor with God in His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus has made it possible for us to enter the gates of God to the throne of glory, because He is our Great High Priest. It's all about Christ. When we realize it's all of God,

then and only then can we approach God both humbly and boldly.

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