

IMMERSE: KINGDOMS

Week 9 – What the Law Didn't Allow, God's Grace Allowed – Ruth 2 & 3

August 7, 2022

ENTER BOAZ – who comes from Bethlehem and greets his employees with. . .

Ruth 2:4 - . . . *'The LORD be with you!' And they answered him, 'The LORD bless you!'*

We see a positive relationship between employer and employees. This seems to be very unusual for days in the time of the Judges when there was virtual chaos in the land.

AND BOAZ sees Ruth, asks his servant about her (Ruth 2:5-6). Boaz gives instructions to Ruth – *'You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women. ⁹ Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn.'* In Boaz calling Ruth, “My daughter,” it appears that there might be a large age gap between them. Boaz offers Ruth water from the vessels. Bible scholars have written that the privilege of drinking out of water jars was not customarily extended to gleaners. The gleaners were the lowest of the low. But we see grace being extended to Ruth.

Ruth 2:10-12 - ¹⁰ *So she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, 'Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?' ¹¹ And Boaz answered and said to her, 'It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. ¹² The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.'*

Ruth had come under the wings of the God of Israel. She had come to faith in Him. In Ex. 19:4, Deut. 32:11-12, Eze. 16:8 – we see that this word “wings” speaks of God's covenant relationship with Israel. He has carried them on eagles' wings, He has spread His wing over them and entered into a marriage relationship with them.

Isa. 56:6 - *the sons of the foreigner who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants.* (Matt. 23:37; Psa. 57:1)

Ruth 2:13-16 – Ruth was satisfied from Boaz' provision. Jesus satisfies. Boaz is going beyond the letter of the law in his directions to the young men.

Ruth 2:17-18 - *So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. An ephah was about 30-40 lbs. This speaks to abundance! ¹⁸ Then she took it up and went into the city, and her mother-in-law*

saw what she had gleaned. So she brought out and gave to her what she had kept back after she had been satisfied. Ruth shares with Naomi from that which has satisfied her!

Naomi asks where Ruth had gleaned! Didn't she know as Boaz was a brother of Elimelech – a kinsman.

Ruth 2:20 – *'Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!' ... 'This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives.'* Ruth, the

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Gentile, introduced Boaz, a Jewish man, to Naomi, who is Jewish! (Rom. 11:11)

Ruth 2:21-22 - *Ruth the Moabitess said, 'He also said to me, 'You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'²² And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, 'It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, and that people do not meet you in any other field.'²³ So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.*

At the end of Ruth 2, we have the end of the harvest time. Harvest time is the season of abundance/of grace. The Church age is the season of grace! At the end of Ruth chapter 2, the wheat harvest is completed.

Ruth remained with her mother-in-law from the barley harvest through to the end of the wheat harvest. VERY SIGNIFICANT!

In Ruth 3 we find Ruth in a most secure spot.

Ruth 3

Ruth 3:1-2 – *Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, 'My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you? ² Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.'*

Naomi is telling Ruth that since Boaz is our relative, you have the right, Ruth, to approach him. He is a kinsman-redeemer and can redeem you! He can marry you. Naomi is telling Ruth to propose marriage to Boaz! Naomi tells Ruth to go to the threshing floor. Threshing in Hebrew means "to trample". Many times a threshing roller with metal studs was used to break up the grain. The threshing roller was called a Tribulum. Tribulation! Threshing in Scripture pictures God's judgment. In Ruth 3 we find Ruth in a very secure spot during the threshing scene which represents the Tribulation in God's plan which occurs after the season of grace!!

Naomi tells Ruth how to approach Boaz to get him to exercise his responsibility as her kinsman-redeemer. Ruth 3:3 - *Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor;*

“Wash yourself” speaks about purification for marriage (Eze. 16:9-10) when God spread His wing over Israel – when He entered into a covenant with Israel. In Ezekiel 16 we read that God washed Israel and anointed her with oil and clothed her and took her to Himself – He was married to Israel – “You became Mine.” (Jer. 3:14 – “I am married to you.”) Naomi then tells Ruth to notice the place where Boaz lies down and uncover his feet and wait for him to tell you what you should do. “Uncover his feet” – in the culture of that day, this was understood as an act of total submission. A servant would lay at his master’s feet waiting for the next command. Ruth obeys Naomi. Where was the submissive Ruth during the threshing scene – during the tribulation? At the feet of Boaz who is a type of Jesus.

Ruth 3:8-13 - *Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet. ⁹ And he said, ‘Who are you?’ So she*

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answered, ‘I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative.’ ¹⁰ Then he said, ‘Blessed are you of the LORD, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich. ¹¹ And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman. ¹² Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. ¹³ Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you—good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the LORD lives! Lie down until morning.’

Boaz is seeking Ruth’s protection. While he’s not the closest relative, he will approach the brother who is the closest relative and tell him of his duty. And if the closest relative will not perform, Boaz will perform the duty. Boaz LOVES Ruth! Ruth remains at his feet until morning and leaves before it is light.

Ruth 3:14-18 - *So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, ‘Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor.’ ¹⁵ Also he said, ‘Bring the shawl that is on you and hold it.’ And when she held it, he measured six ephahs of barley, and laid it on her. Then she went into the city. ¹⁶ When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, ‘Is that you, my daughter?’ Then she told her all that the man had done for her. ¹⁷ And she said, ‘These six (ephahs) of barley he gave me; for he said to me, ‘Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.’ ¹⁸ Then she said, ‘Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day.’*

Boaz gives Ruth a measurement of barley...seemingly as a message for Naomi. Upon receiving the measurement of barley, Naomi assures Ruth that Boaz will not rest until he takes care of the matter re: the closest relative.

Who is this kinsman closer to Elimelech?