



## God's Providence

### Chapter 2: Part 1

*"May the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done." Ruth 2:12*

#### A. Boaz, a new character in our story...

*"Now there was a wealthy and influential man in Bethlehem named Boaz, who was a relative of Naomi's husband, Elimelech." Vs 2:1*

1. Boaz meant "mighty man of valor." He was a wealthy and influential man.

*"Now there was a wealthy and influential man..."*

2. Boaz was a kind and considerate employer.

*"While she was there, Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters. 'The LORD be with you!' he said. 'The LORD bless you!' the harvesters replied." Vs 2:4*

3. Boaz was a man of faith.

*"While she was there, Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters. 'The LORD be with you!' he said. 'The LORD bless you!' the harvesters replied." Vs 2:4*

4. Boaz was a man moved by Ruth's love and protection of her mother-in-law.

*"But I also know about everything you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband. I have heard how you left your father and mother and your own land to live here among complete strangers." Vs 2:11b*

5. Boaz was a man of character.

*"Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, a man of standing..." Vs 2:1 NIV (Other translations refer to him as "a prominent man of noble character.")*

6. Boaz was compassionate toward Ruth, a Moabitess.

*"Boaz went over and said to Ruth, 'Listen, my daughter. Stay right here with us when you gather grain; don't go to any other fields. Stay right behind the young women working in my field.'" Vs 2:8*

7. Boaz' mother was a Canaanite.

*"And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, 'Go, view the land, especially Jericho.' And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there." Joshua 2:1 (Read Joshua chapter 2 for more info.)*

- a. Rahab the Harlot was Boaz' mother.
- b. Rahab had saved the lives of the two spies.
- c. Jericho was a wicked, corrupt, and depraved city that worshipped Ashtoreth the moon goddess, known as the goddess of war and love. Worship was often practiced with prostitution.
- d. Rahab saved, not only herself, but also her parents, brothers and sisters, and all their family members.
- e. Rahab's courage and faith in the God of Israel saved her and her family.
- f. Rahab and her family were foreigners who came to Israel.
- g. Rahab became the first gentile convert in the Bible.
- h. Rahab married Salmon, from a leading family in the nation, and they became the parents of Boaz.

*"Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was Rahab)."*

*Matthew 1:5a*

#### B. Ruth's character continued to develop...

*"Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God." Vs 1:16b*

1. Ruth was industrious.

*"One day Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, 'Let me go out into the harvest fields to pick up the stalks of grain left behind by anyone who is kind enough to let me do it.'" Vs 2:2*

2. Ruth had a strong work ethic.

*"She asked me this morning if she could gather grain behind the harvesters. She has been hard at work ever since, except for a few minutes' rest in the shelter." Vs 2:7*

3. Ruth was humble and gracious.

*"Ruth fell at his feet and thanked him warmly. 'What have I done to deserve such kindness?' she asked. 'I am only a foreigner.'" Vs 2:10*

4. Ruth was grateful.

*"'I hope I continue to please you, sir,' she replied. 'You have comforted me by speaking so kindly to me, even though I am not one of your workers.'" Vs 2:13*

5. Ruth was compassionate and caring toward her mother-in-law.

*"She carried it back into town and showed it to her mother-in-law. Ruth also gave her the roasted grain that was left over from her meal." Vs 2:18*

#### C. Who does God choose to use?

1. Boaz was a man of character.

As we continue to walk in faithfulness, God continues to reveal His will. How would others describe your character?

*"People with integrity walk safely, but those who follow crooked paths will be exposed." Proverbs 10:9*

2. Boaz was a man of patience and faith. Boaz had waited and was trusting God. God calls us to wait on Him patiently. His ways and His timing are critical to discovering His will. Are you waiting on a promise the Lord has given? Are you believing by faith that God will fulfill His promise?

*"Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and endurance (patience)." Hebrews 6:12*

3. Ruth was willing to take initiative. She didn't just sit and wait for God to provide, she struck out to find what was needed. Sometimes we need to do more than sit. We may need to start knocking on doors to see where God is leading...not aggressively but diligently. Take initiative and move forward.

*"And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him." Hebrews 11:6*

4. Ruth was willing to demonstrate her faith by action. Throughout Scripture, we see the importance of putting our faith into practice. If you believe, then you will act. What is God calling you to act on?

Where do you need to put your faith into practice?

*“Now someone may argue, ‘Some people have faith; others have good deeds.’ But I say, ‘How can you show me your faith if you don’t have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds.’” James 2:18*

*“It was by faith...” Hebrews 11:2-31*

*“It was by faith that Rahab the prostitute was not destroyed with the people in her city who refused to obey God. For she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.” Hebrews 11:31*

5. Remember, God’s grace covers you. His grace covers your past. His grace covers your sin. His grace is greater than anything the enemy would bring before you! God desires to work through your life when you are willing to surrender to His will!

*“And He gives grace generously.” James 4:6a*

*“So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.” Hebrews 4:16*

*“But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out His special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by His grace.” 1 Corinthians 15:10*

*“From His abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.” John 1:16*

*“For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people.” Titus 2:11*

*To begin a relationship with Jesus...*

*Text: I Choose Jesus to 88202*