



God's Providence

Chapter 2: Part 2

"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. Ruth's initiative paid off...

"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 2:2a

1. Ruth asked permission to provide for Naomi.

"Let me go... 'All right, my daughter, go ahead.'" Vs 2:2

2. Ruth "happened" upon the field of Boaz.

"So Ruth went out to gather grain behind the harvesters. And as it happened, she found herself working in a field that belonged to Boaz, the relative of her father-in-law, Elimelech." Vs 2:3

3. Boaz arrived at the harvest field.

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

4. Ruth had asked for permission to gather behind the harvesters.

"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

5. Boaz was impressed with her character and granted her special privilege.

"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. See which part of the field they are harvesting, and then follow them. I have warned the young men not to treat you roughly. And when you are thirsty, help yourself to the water they have drawn from the well.'" Vs 2:8-9

a. Boaz offered the freedom to continue gathering in his fields.

b. Boaz offered her companionship with his female workers.

c. Boaz offered her protection from the young men from mistreatment or harassment.

d. Boaz offered her refreshment when needed.

6. Ruth gave a humble response to Boaz.

"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

7. Boaz knew of Ruth's character before he ever knew her.

"Yes, I know," Boaz replied. '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 2:11

8. Ruth, once again, graciously responded to Boaz.

"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

B. Boaz extended an even more gracious offer...

"At mealtime Boaz called to her..." Vs 2:14

1. Boaz invited her to the meal.

"Come over here, and help yourself to some food." Vs 2:14

2. Boaz invited her to dip into the sour wine, a refreshing drink of that time.

"You can dip your bread in the sour wine." Vs 2:14

3. Boaz invited her to be part of his harvesters.

"So she sat with his harvesters." Vs 2:14

4. Boaz generously offered her food.

"Boaz gave her some roasted grain to eat. She ate all she wanted and still had some left over." Vs 2:14

5. Boaz further extended his offer to gather grain.

"When Ruth went back to work again, Boaz ordered his young men, 'Let her gather grain right among the sheaves without stopping her.'" Vs. 2:15

6. Boaz offered her even greater opportunities without making her feel as if she was not deserving.

"And pull out some heads of barley from the bundles and drop them on purpose for her." Vs 2:16a

7. Boaz confirmed his protection over Ruth.

"Let her pick them up, and don't give her a hard time!" Vs 2:16b

C. Ruth returned home with great news...

"So Ruth gathered barley there all day, and when she beat out the grain that evening, it filled an entire basket. 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 2:17-18

1. Naomi was full of joy at Ruth's success and Ruth revealed the name of the landowner.

"May the LORD bless the one who helped you!" So Ruth told her mother-in-law about the man in whose field she had worked. She said, 'The man I worked with today is named Boaz.'" Vs 2:19

2. Naomi revealed Boaz' relationship to Ruth.

"That man is one of our closest relatives, one of our family redeemers." Vs 2:20b

3. Ruth shared that Boaz had invited her back.

"Then Ruth said, 'What's more, Boaz even told me to come back and stay with his harvesters until the entire harvest is completed.' 'Good!' Naomi exclaimed. 'Do as he said, my daughter. Stay with his young women right through the whole harvest. You might be harassed in other fields, but you'll be safe with him.'" Vs 2:21-22

4. Ruth worked in Boaz' fields for months.

"So Ruth worked alongside the women in Boaz's fields and gathered grain with them until the end of the barley harvest. Then she continued working with them through the wheat harvest in early summer. And all the while she lived with her mother-in-law." Vs 2:23

D. God's providence came when Ruth was willing to pay the price...

1. Ruth's love for her mother-in-law was greater than her fear. When love is greater than fear, we are motivated to do whatever is needed. Don't let fear control your actions!

"Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced His perfect love." 1 John 4:18

"Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with My victorious right hand." Isaiah 41:10

2. Ruth was willing to make the most of her very difficult circumstances. Move forward and trust God for His leading.

"Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust Him, and He will help you." Psalm 37:5

3. Boaz watched Ruth's work and was impressed, not only by her work ethic, but by her character. There are always those who are watching our lives and seeing if our words match our lifestyles.

"Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it."

1 Peter 3:15

"Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone." Colossians 4:5-6

4. Boaz' character was seen in how he treated others with kindness. Would others remark as to your kindness? To your family... your friends... to those perceived as serving you?

"Or do you show contempt for the riches of His kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?" Romans 2:4

"Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32

"Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." Colossians 3:12

5. Ruth's response to kindness was humility, not entitlement. "What have I done to deserve such kindness?" How do you handle the gracious gifts of God in your life? With entitlement? Or with gratefulness?

"Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus. This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners'—and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of His great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in Him and receive eternal life." 1 Timothy 1:14-16

6. Ruth was determined to do what she could where she was. Have you determined to do what you can where you are?

"Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ." Colossians 3:23-24

7. When you are fully surrendered and only seeking

God, you may be surprised at His reward!

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33 NIV

To begin a relationship with Jesus...

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