

**BOOK OF RUTH
IN THE FIELD OF GRACE
RUTH 2:4-17**

Introduction:

RUTH was a widow from **MOAB**. In the mind of the average **ISRAELITE**, she would have been less than nothing and looked upon as a person to be despised and rejected.

RUTH had a moved on from her former life of **IDOLATRY** to embrace the **LORD GOD** of **ISRAEL!** She, along with her mother-in-law **NAOMI** were desperately needing someone to show her some **GRACE** they were in need of food. We saw how *Verses 2-3* told us that she went out to hunt for food. This involved her entering fields that belonged to total strangers to her and falling in line behind that man's servants who were reaping the fields and trying to find a little grain here and there. (*i.e. gleaning*)

She was looking for just enough to make meals for herself and her mother-in-law for the day. *Verse 2* tells us that she went out looking "*for grace*". *Verse 3* describes how she found it!

Even though **RUTH** didn't know it at the time, the **LORD** was directing her steps to bring her face to face with a man by the name of **BOAZ**. When she went to glean in his field, she entered **THE FIELD OF GRACE**.

Last week we said that **BOAZ** is a **TYPE** or **PICTURE** of the **LORD JESUS CHRIST**. His actions in his field that day show us how the **LORD JESUS** acts toward those of us who are in **HIS FIELD—the CHURCH**.

I want us to consider **RUTH** and **BOAZ** as we find **RUTH** "*IN THE FIELD OF GRACE*." I want you to notice the picture that **BOAZ** paints of the **LORD JESUS CHRIST** and some lessons he teaches us about our **LORD!**

I. WE NOTICE BOAZ'S CONSIDERING WORK. (Vs. 4-7)

A. BOAZ Was Present In His Field. (Vs. 4-5a)

In the same way, our heavenly **BOAZ (JESUS CHRIST)** is **EVER PRESENT** in **HIS FIELD!**

Matthew 28:20—"I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

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Hebrews 13:5—"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

1. His Presence Was Personal. (Vs. 4)

Just as our **LORD'S PRESENCE** is **PERSONAL!**
Revelation 2:1—"These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;"

2. His Presence Was By Proxy. (Vs. 5)

Just as **JESUS**, though **HE'S** in heaven today is ever present with **BELIEVERS** by **HIS SPIRIT!**
John 14:16-18.

3. His Presence Was Pleasant.

Note the gracious greeting between **BOAZ** and his servants. (*Vs. 4*)

JESUS never brings strife or trouble, but always the breath of Heaven and the fragrant breezes of glory!
Psalms 16:11—"Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

BOAZ Was Present In His Field...

B. BOAZ Was Perceptive Of His Field. (V. 5b-7)

BOAZ kept a constant watch on his fields. In the same way, our heavenly **BOAZ (JESUS CHRIST)** misses nothing that transpires in **HIS** field.

Proverbs 15:3—"The eyes of the **LORD** are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

Matthew 10:29-31—"Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows."

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The **LORD'S** eyes are on **HIS CHURCH** and **HE** misses nothing that happens. But, **HE** is also interested in us as individuals!

1. BOAZ'S Perception Was Personal. (Vs. 5b)

RUTH caught **BOAZ'S** eye! Just as **JESUS** loves the **CHURCH**, but **HE** also loves us as **INDIVIDUALS!** We have caught **HIS** eye! **HE** cares about us!

Jeremiah 31:3—“The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”

Romans 8:38-39—“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

2. BOAZ'S Perception Was Powerful. (Vs. 6-7)

BOAZ wanted to know about her background, her activities and her motives.

JESUS knows everything there is to know about us without even asking anyone, and yet **HE** still loves us and desires to be with us. I find that amazing!

HE calls us saints and yet we are not worthy alone!
HE calls us friends and yet again we are not worthy!
That is nothing but **GRACE**, pure and simple!

WE NOTICE BOAZ'S CONSIDERING WORK.

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II. WE NOTICE BOAZ'S COMMANDING WORK. (Vs. 8-9)

BOAZ had a few words of counsel for **RUTH**. These commands were designed to encourage her in her work of gleaning. They should also speak to us today as well!

A. We See BOAZ'S Command Concerning RUTH'S Steadfastness. (Vs. 8-9a) **RUTH** was commanded to glean in his fields only. **SHE** didn't know it, but **BOAZ** had plans to take care of her. If she would just abide in his field, she would enjoy the best that he had to offer.

The same is true for the **CHILD OF GOD**. If we will abide faithful in the **LORD'S** field, **HE** will bless us beyond our wildest dreams!

1 Corinthians 15:57-58—“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

The reason so many miss out on the **LORD'S** best for their lives is that they don't abide in the **LORD'S** field. They glean here and there looking for satisfaction in other places, but they never settle down and make the **LORD'S** will their number one priority!

We can't decide to just glean wherever and whenever we want and expect **GOD** to bless us!

GOD is looking for faithful stewards! (1 Corinthians 4:2)

We See BOAZ'S Command Concerning RUTH'S Steadfastness...

B. We See BOAZ'S Command Concerning RUTH'S Safety. (Vs. 9b) **BOAZ** had commanded the men to leave her alone.

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BOAZ was making sure that no one took unfair advantage of **RUTH**. He was telling her not to worry, he had taken care of the details for her and she could trust him to look after her!

What a lesson there is for the **BELIEVER** in that right there!
We can **TRUST** our **LORD** to take care of us!

HE is more concerned over our welfare than we are!

Romans 8:28—“*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*”

2 Corinthians 4:17—“*For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.*”

*BOAZ’S Command Concerning RUTH’S Steadfastness...
Safety...*

- C. **We See BOAZ’S Command Concerning RUTH’S Supply.** (*Vs. 9c*) **BOAZ** made sure she knew that he had everything she needed to be satisfied. So it is with the **CHILDREN OF THE LORD**. **HE** has all we need to be satisfied as we walk through this world. If only we would learn to appropriate that which **HE** has already provided! **JESUS** has and is all we need!
He is rest for the weary! **Matthew 11:28, Psalm 23:2-3.**
He is refreshment for the thirsty! **John 7:37, Psalm 23:2.**
He is food for the hungry! **John 6:35; Psalm 23:5.**
He is healing to the injured! **Psalm 23:5.**
He is hope for the discouraged! **Psalm 23:5-6.**
He is shelter for the frightened! **Psalm 23:4.**
He is all we need!
It is summed up in **Psalm 23:1** - “*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*”

BOAZ’S CONSIDERING WORK...COMMANDING WORK...

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III. WE NOTICE BOAZ’S COMFORTING WORK. (*Vs. 10-14*)

A. **We See RUTH’S Amazement.** (*Vs. 10*)

RUTH finds herself humbled by **BOAZ’S GRACE!**

There are times when the thought of **what CHRIST** has done for us is just overwhelming!

(**Isaiah 53:1-12; Philippians 2:5-11**)

We should never bet over **GOD’S AMAZING GRACE!**

B. **We See BOAZ’S Announcement.** (*Vs. 11-12*)

BOAZ told **RUTH** that he knew about her **DEEDS** and he knew about her **FAITH** in the **LORD**. He prayed that she would receive a full reward for the service she had rendered to **NAOMI!**

Just a word here for any **SAINT** that may be struggling today! People may call into question our **ACTIONS** and our **MOTIVES**, but the **LORD** alone knows our **HEART!**
(**1 Samuel 16:7**)

One day, there will be a **FULL REWARD** given to the **FAITHFUL CHILD OF GOD**. **PAUL** told **TIMOTHY**:
2 Timothy 4:6-8—“*For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*”

C. **We See RUTH’S Appeal.** (*Vs. 13*)

She was still looking for **GRACE** and didn't even fully realize that she had walked right into the middle of a field **FULL OF GRACE!**

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She just wanted to please **BOAZ**. He had been good to her and she wanted to do that which pleased him.

That needs to be the **ATTITUDE** and **GOAL** of every **CHILD OF GOD!** We need to stop trying to live our life to please everybody in the world and just live it to please the **LORD!**

That will make our life real simple, real fast! **GOD** is already pleased with our **POSITION!** We are as **RIGHTEOUS** as we are ever going to be in **CHRIST!** (*1 Corinthians 6:9-11*)

Nevertheless, we need to live our lives day by day in such a way that pleases the **LORD**. How? By **LOVING HIM, WORSHIPING HIM,** and by **PUTTING HIM AHEAD OF EVERYTHING ELSE** in this world. (*Matthew 6:33*)

D. We See BOAZ'S Acceptance. (Vs. 14)

There are a few things that **BOAZ** did in this verse that prove beyond all doubts that **RUTH** had found **FAVOR** in his eyes.

1. BOAZ Sat With RUTH.

He invited her to join him for a meal at the table and sat close enough to her to pass the corn. He didn't care about her past. She had captured his heart.

Our past is no barrier between us and our **LORD** when it has been dealt with in **SALVATION**. We are brought into a **POSITION** of nearness to **HIM**.

2. BOAZ Supped With RUTH.

This speaks of close fellowship. There are times in life when the **LORD** will "*sup*" with **HIS CHILDREN**. (*Revelation 3:20*)

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HE desires that we be close to **HIM** so that **HE** might fill our lives with **HIS** best!

BOAZ Sat With RUTH...Supped With RUTH...

3. BOAZ Satisfied RUTH.

When **RUTH** left that table she was **SATISFIED!**

There is no need for a **CHILD OF GOD** to be unfulfilled as a **BELIEVER!**

The **LORD** has **PROVIDED ALL THE RESOURCES** we need to be **FILLED ABOVE MEASURE** with **HIS GOODNESS** and **GLORY!**

Our **DUTY** is to **RECEIVE** what **HE GIVES** us and to enjoy it to the full! We have already been **BLESSED** to the full!

Ephesians 1:3—"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:"

There is no excuse for defeat and dissatisfaction in the **BELIEVER'S** life!

WE NOTICE BOAZ'S CONSIDERING WORK...COMMANDING WORK...COMFORTING WORK...

IV. WE NOTICE BOAZ'S CONCEALING WORK. (Vs. 15-17)

After **RUTH** left the table, **BOAZ** continued to work in her absence. He was even working behind her back to take care of her.

A. We See BOAZ'S Work Of Providence.

He made some decisions behind the scenes that affected her life.

He was working for her good, even when she didn't know it!

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The **LORD** is always working behind the scenes in **BELIEVERS' LIVES** as well to bring about **HIS BEST** for us. That's what is called **HIS SOVEREIGNTY and HIS PROVIDENCE!**

B. We See BOAZ'S Work Of Provision.

BOAZ commanded his men to drop "*handfuls of purpose.*" Why? He wanted **RUTH** to get so much in his field that she wouldn't want to go anywhere else!

That is how the **LORD** operates on our behalf! **HE** is so good to **HIS CHILDREN**, that no one in their right spiritual mind would ever consider gleaning anywhere else!

Praise **GOD** for **HIS "Handfuls of Purpose"** in our lives. I'm talking about those times when the **LORD BLESSES** us just because **HE CAN!**

C. We See BOAZ'S Work Of Plenty.

When **RUTH** left that day, she left carrying a half-bushel of grain. More than enough to feed her and **NAOMI** for a week.

There are times in our lives when the **LORD** will simply load our wagon! i.e. **HE** gives us more than we need.

Conclusion

RUTH had no worries when she was **IN THE FIELD OF GRACE.**

She was protected!

She rested when she was weary!

She ate when she was hungry!

She drank when she was thirsty!

Her every need was met by the **GRACE** of **BOAZ** which was in reality the **GRACE OF GOD** working in her life!