



Ruth Chapter Two

And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.

² And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.

³ And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.

⁴ And, behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said unto the reapers, The Lord be with you. And they answered him, The Lord bless thee.

⁵ Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel is this?

⁶ And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, It is the Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab:

⁷ And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves: so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now, that she tarried a little in the house.

In this chapter we are introduced to Boaz who will play the role of the Goel or the Kinsman Redeemer (see Leviticus 19:9-10).

Boaz name means "fleetness" and in this story he is a type of Christ...from Bethlehem.

Verse 1 – Transition period – changing from one state to another.

- Naomi had a relative who was mighty rich named Boaz = fleetness.
- She is broke and in need and fails to recall she has a rich relative that can help her.

Verse 2 – Ruth is willing to glean, which is to pick up left overs. Transition is not always a pleasant time. We may have to do some things that are uncomfortable or what you don't want to do until God does what He's promised to do.

Ruth speaks faith....moves with expectation that if she is faithful in gleaning that she will find grace.

- Knew if she did her part, something good was going to come out of it....so she didn't complain.
- Key point...she speaks faith.

Verse 3 – She started working behind the reapers...picking up leftovers. Reapers were getting the best harvest. They went first, she came along last. It just so happened she landed on the field that belonged to Boaz. Positioning is important. This is not just by chance.

Verse 4 – Boaz came from Bethlehem...funny, we have a rich relative too who comes from the same place...his name is Jesus. Speaks to his workers by giving them a blessed greeting.



Verse 5 – Boaz notices Ruth. Hard workers look good and get noticed. We wouldn't typically take notice of Ruth. Boaz does. We don't want to notice Ruth...but Boaz does on purpose. He notices her humility. Humility is attractive to God. Faithfulness in transition will also get God's attention.

The fact that she was a good worker caught the attention of Boaz.

Verse 7 – Servant tells how she applied for the job.....she just wants to get the leftovers, do the clean-up work after everyone else. Worked all day and took one break.

V2 – Ruth took initiative when she got there. Didn't just sit around. She worked.

Application for Today:

- Ruth is in a season of transition. Transition is the process of changing from one status, activity or place to another state. You are not where you used to be or started out from (Moab) but not ultimately at the place where you are receiving God's best.
- Transition is not always comfortable. You don't fit in where you used to be and you are not where God is taking you. Key point, don't give up during transition.
 - Don't complain like the Children of Israel did when they were in transition between Egypt and the Promised Land.
 - Be encouraged, transition has an expiration date. It is not supposed to last always, only there to get you through to the next level.
 - Be encouraged, His plan is not that you remain a gleaner forever, just part of the process for experiencing His best season.
- You may have to be faithful doing something humbling, getting leftovers, working at a job that you didn't go to school for, etc., until you reach that promised place.
- Whatever job God blesses you with (make sure it is from Him), be faithful at it. Chances are, how you perform on this job in this season, may determine your promotion and preparation for the next season and next great move of God in your life.
- Boaz demonstrated good leadership traits. Came from Bethlehem to check on them.
 - Good for a leader to go down to the worker level to bless them and show an interest in their work.
 - Fellowships with them without demeaning his status.

⁸ Then 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:

⁹ Let 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.

¹⁰ Then 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?

¹¹ 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: 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.

¹² The 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.

¹³ Then she said, Let me find favor in thy sight, my lord; 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.

¹⁴ And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left.

Verse 8 – Boaz speaks to her. A type of Christ in the story...a kinsman redeemer. The instructions are don't go work in another field. Don't leave this place...stay here close to his maid servants.

- Listen – some people hear but don't listen
- Don't glean someplace else
- Follow the example of others in the field
- You will be protected and provided for
- Don't pick up stuff in the wrong place
- Don't hang out with the wrong folks
- Don't leave the place where you are getting blessed even if it is not the job you want or place you want to be
- Understand, that is part of transition. Just because you are gleaning today and getting leftovers....doesn't mean this role is your final destiny. Be faithful to the instructions given.
- What she needed was on that field but people will think they need to go someplace else for the answer when it doesn't happen like they think it should

Verse 9 – Keep your focus on this field where these workers are. Follow after them as an example. He has charged that if she stay in that place, she will be protected. Can't touch her. She will be thirsty...but he will make provisions. There will be a vessel available that someone else will draw for her.

Verse 10 – Her response is gratefulness. Gives him respect and honor by bowing to the ground. Notices that she found grace and asks why. Why are you interested in me since I'm not from here and don't really know you. I could say the same thing about Christ.

- Be careful to give thanks during the transition season while you are waiting for the better season to come.
- Your attitude could determine how long you remain in transition.

Verse 11 – Boaz' answer, he was shown and is aware of all she had done. What had she done which he noticed that caused her to be blessed like this and find favor?

- Faithful and committed to her mother in law, family; didn't let her own loss cause her to be bitter or not serve others.
- Left behind her old life and where she came from...didn't go back to trusting in that old place and other gods.
- Comes to a place and people that she didn't know before and now she is hanging out with them.

Verse 12 – The blessing from Boaz, The Lord repay her for her work by giving her a full reward from Him. The reason, because she has come to trust Him. This trust is a process. She had come to trust in God's ability to protect and provide for her. Her work is a work of faith and her diligence in seeking Him which will result in a greater reward.....or His best. She receives a promise from Boaz that she is eligible for something greater if she follows these new instructions. Her faithfulness has gotten her to the place where she has received a greater revelation and favor.

- If you obey the word, God will give you further instructions through His word.

Verse 13 – She asks for favor from Boaz (type of Christ) because what Boaz has told her has comforted her. What did he tell her that would have been a comfort to her? Favor, protection, provision, promise of a greater reward...a full reward from God to repay her work....what work....seeking hard after this place and God.....trusting in Him, and the journey she made to leave behind the old place and get to this new place of promise. This is good news.

Verse 14 – Boaz invites her to communion with them consisting of bread and vinegar or wine. Ruth gets to sit beside the reapers and enjoy some of the corn she gleaned. She was satisfied, filled from this communion time and left. Doesn't leave until after communion.

- Part of getting God's best for your church.....is not just letting others glean in the fields, but having communion with them.
 - Can gleaners sit beside reapers in your field or church?
 - A church at another level of maturity and grace and favor will not just be satisfied having people show up. I don't want my church to be a "glean-n-go".
 - Fellowship and mentoring to help disciple those in transition is an important church function.
- Why make a church connection here? Some may say you are going too far Chuck. But I believe there is a connection and application for today's church.....there is a church connection here.
- The Book of Ruth is read during the Feast of Pentecost by the Jews. There is great significance in this:
 - Pentecost – Mt. Sinai, is the day Israel becomes betrothed to God. Given the pre-nuptial agreement as they agree to the 10 commandments. We see this in Exodus 19.
 - Two wave loaves used with leaven....the only feast time when leaven allowed since leaven represents sin. One loaf represents the Jews, the other loaf represents Gentile believers in the Messiah.
 - Birth of Israel as a nation, and birth of the church in Acts happens during the Feast of Pentecost.
 - Charity and rejoicing with strangers was expected during Pentecost....Deut 16:9-12.
 - There is indeed a connection to the church in this story.

15 And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not:

16 And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her not.

17 So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley.

Verse 15 – Favor increased, she still has to glean but gets to do it among the sheaves....no longer has to pick it up off the ground.....she can glean among the good stuff. She can enjoy reaper benefits during her transition as a gleaner. They are instructed to not reproach her or hinder her from gleaning from something better.

It gets better for her. Still in transition...but about to be blessed on purpose. Just because you may not be receiving His best right now, doesn't mean He will not bless you where you are in transition.

Verse 16 – Boaz gives instructions that they are to not only let her glean from the best; but that they should let some of the grain fall on purpose for her to pick up. Transition is a difficult and uncomfortable time, but if you are faithful in this season, God will start to bless you on purpose. Expect it. When you are in the right field....you ought to be walking into some blessings after a while.

- Where are you in this story? Some are gleaners and some right now are reapers. The message and instructions for each group is still in effect today as it pertains to reaching His best.
- Where did her blessings come from? Boaz....a type of Christ...application...Christ wants to bless you on purpose.

Verse 17 – Ruth gleaned until evening, worked during the day. Notice, she didn't complain about the blessing and favor she got. He could have complained that it wasn't the very best, she was still gleaning left-overs. But she didn't complain. She worked with what she was given. There is an application that we must be aware of if we want to get in position for God's best.

Application for Today:

- Look for the little blessing He will provide to you on purpose.
- Appreciate and work with that blessing.
- I don't need Gucci today, I'll take the knock off and work with that and celebrate until the season of His better comes around.
- Ruth measures out her earnings. Therefore, it is a great idea to count out your blessings each day.
- Transition is hard but after a while, it gets easier. Ruth is walking into blessings....handful of blessings....small but appropriate for where she was. Just because it is a small blessing doesn't mean you can't celebrate; how you recognize and receive the small blessings can impact your time in transition.

- The more you learn to trust Him, the easier hard times get. God wants you to start walking into blessings.
- Why was it easier...because the reapers had gone through first. When you are in transition, glean from other reapers who have been there and done that before you got there. A good reaper can make it easier for you....make sure it's a reaper on the right field with the right word from God.
- Mentors can be a great help when you are in transition.

18 And she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed.

19 And her mother in law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned to day? And where wroughtest thou? Blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And she shewed her mother in law with whom she had wrought, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought today is Boaz.

20 And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the Lord, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen.

21 And Ruth the Moabite said, He said unto me also, Thou shalt keep fast by my young men, until they have ended all my harvest.

22 And Naomi said unto Ruth her daughter in law, It is good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens, that they meet thee not in any other field.

23 So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and dwelt with her mother in law.

Verse 18 – Ruth took what she gleaned and went home and Naomi saw what she had. She doesn't hoard it or hide the blessing, instead she shares it. She was already satisfied so she brings what was left over or reserved for someone else in need.

- Hook yourself up before you try helping someone else. You may not be in position yet to do some things for others....but you will.
- God will hook you up with extra so you can bless someone else in need.

Verse 19 – Her mother-in-law asks her where she had been working at. Ruth tells her she was in Boaz's field.

Verse 20 – Naomi knows Boaz. He's kin-folk to her. Near kin or next kin. When all else fails try the next of kin or Jesus. Boaz is a type of Christ in this story.

Verse 21 – She tells Naomi that Boaz told her to stick close to the young men until the end of the harvest. She may have gotten that wrong.

Verse 22 – Naomi says it is good that she go with his maidens and that she not go to any other field.

- Note, the first warning is now confirmed. Heard it from two witnesses. She is told to stick with the maidens, not the young men.
 - It is good to have someone who can mentor you in the correct interpretation of the word of instruction you hear and receive.
- She is told to not go to another field and stick with the right persons. Where you glean and who you are connected to can impact your positioning in trying to get to God's best.
- During transition, there will be opportunities for you to make the wrong choice. If there wasn't an opportunity for her to go to another field or take another option....she wouldn't have been warned twice to stay on Boaz's field. Stay on the right field, too many people leave the place of promise for something they think is better. Keep your butt right there.
- Young people do you hear me? What field are we working on? Where have you gleaned today?
- If she goes to any other field, she misses out on the "on purpose" blessings.

Verse 23 – Important, she obeyed. This is key to getting God's best. Just because you hear good instructions doesn't mean you will apply it. She does obey and it will bring her closer to His best. Ruth stayed through this season and the next or wheat harvest.

- Wheat harvest is around Pentecost. This entire Christian walk is a process and seasons.

Summary Observations and Application:

Even though Ruth is different and hasn't always been living in the right place or trusting in the right God, Boaz speaks kindly to her. God looks at us the same way. Just because we may not have always been living right, He lovingly speaks to us and invites us to draw closer to Him. There is a reward when we turn from our past sins and trust in Him. This is the good news of the Gospel of Jesus.

- The word of God should be a comfort to you.

V8-9 – Workplace instructions. As you go along, you get further instructions.

- Stay close to others like you, who been working there longer than you, and belong to Boaz.
- If you are getting blessed in the place, don't go someplace else to pick up stuff.
- Why tell her this? There must be a temptation that she may do the opposite or be tempted to leave to search for an answer or provision someplace else.
 - Too many believers leave the right place when in transition. Stay the course.
- Boaz explains the advantages of staying in his field.
 - Fellowship, mentoring
 - Protection
 - Refreshment
- Ruth's attitude is never to complain but instead to praise and give thanks. Why is this so amazing? Because she still isn't out of her transition season yet. She appreciates what she didn't have before even though it's still left overs.

- Asks why is all this good stuff happening to me.....still in transition. Israel complained, but she praises and shows great gratitude.

V10-13 – How she found favor.....what did she do that Boaz was celebrating?:

1. Her kindness to Naomi
 2. She suffered loss (husband)
 3. Left the place, family and friends of her natural birth; what she knew before, she left behind...the world she knew before...she left behind.
 - a. We all have to do the same steps as Ruth in order to be in the right position and relationship with God.
 - b. We have to turn from sin, bad decisions, and the world and change directions by faith and turn to God.
 4. Ruth transitioned to a new place and new people that she didn't know before by faith.
- There are promises associated with this move/steps.....You get paid from God.
 - There is a reward after this.
 - A full reward from God is on the way. He ain't holding anything back if you obey these divine instructions.
 - She is not letting the very obvious fact that she is different impact her blessing.
 - She knew who she was and was humble because of it.

V14-16 – Before the hook up....she gets to enjoy fellowship meal. Get this:

- A Moabite who is picking up food stamps....is sitting with the reapers.
- A gleaner, but she is enjoying reaper benefits.
- She is not receiving God's best just yet...still in transition...but satisfied.
- She realized her hookup and blessing was not just about her.....she is saving some so she can be a blessing to someone else.
- Ruth is blessed on purpose. How did this happen? Boaz instructed it. So he had plans to bless her on purpose. What do you think God's plan is for us in transition?

Ephah of barley.....about 22 liters. The point here is that we should daily count our blessings.

Has left over barley grain and food from the meal. The application is this is never just about you. God blesses on purpose and by design so you can be a blessing to others. What you are going through in transition and how you go through it by faith, is the testimony that will deliver others.

Naomi can recognize a blessing when she sees it. Sees something different about Ruth. Ruth didn't come home from work the way she left for work.

- Remember Boaz is a type of Christ here. When you have had a true encounter with Jesus, people will be able to easily see the change in you.
- There will be a difference when you truly meet Jesus.

Your future is not in your past.