# Sermon - Your Recovery Begins with Your Move

Ruth Chapter 1:1-18

Preached at Cloverdale Baptist Church 6/4/23

**Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. 2The name of the man *was* Elimelech, the name of his wife *was* Naomi, and the names of his two sons *were* Mahlon and Chilion—Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there. 3Then Elimelech, Naomi’s husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons. 4Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one *was* Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years. 5Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.**

* A famine – in the Promised Land; Dry spell, few miracles, more problems than answers.
* The famine caused them to leave -- don’t let a hard time send you where you shouldn’t be.
* Never asked God before they moved. Sometimes not a physical move but a move in your mind
* Elimelech = My God is King; Naomi = my delight; Mahlon = sickly; Chilion = pinning or wasting away

Only intended to stay there a little while but they stayed too long in the wrong place. Don’t stay too long in the wrong place. Make sure your mind doesn’t stay too long in the wrong place.

Husband dies and leaves the family there, what you do will impact your family and future. Started out okay, came there with 4 and gained 2 more. Now down to 3.

* Being in the wrong place has some early benefits, but when you do the math, you will lose more than you gain….not worth it in the end.

**Naomi Returns with Ruth**

**6Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had visited His people by giving them bread. 7Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.**

Something caused her to rise and go back. It was the word, something she heard caused her to move. The word arrived where she was.

* If it wasn’t for her loss, she never would have moved.
* How much will you lose before you move?
* It is time to leave where you are losing and get back to where God is moving.
* You’ll never get to where God wants you to be until you leave where you are. Your move starts in your mind. You have to change your mind about some things in order to move.

She leaves with less; but still had something left.

* Stop worrying about what you lost in the past, you still have what you need to get started…the word.
* Obeying the word is the part you play in your recovery.
* The purpose of the word is to get you to move; if it wasn’t for the word, she would have stayed right there and missed out on God’s blessing. It starts with your move.
* **Important:** I wonder how Naomi got the word? Someone must have told her the good news. Whoever told her played a key role in this story. Doesn’t happen without them sharing the word!

She goes through the process. If you don’t go through this process, you will miss the move of God.

* Finds herself in need. Hears the word.
* Repents – instead of staying there in that condition, she leaves and changes direction. She turns from Moab and heads back toward the place of promise.
* She moves by faith because faith comes by hearing the word of God, so her hope is in her move.

She took everything with her meaning she didn’t need to come back to that place again.

She knew the way back to Judah because she had been there before, and she took others with her. That should be the purpose of every believer….to take someone else with you to the promised land.

**8And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each to her mother’s house. The Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. 9The Lord grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband.” So she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. 10And they said to her, “Surely we will return with you to your people.” 11But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? *Are* there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? 12Turn back, my daughters, go—for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, *if* I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons, 13would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands? No, my daughters; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me!”**

**14Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. 15And she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.”**

**16But Ruth said: “Entreat[**[**e**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ruth+1&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-7144e)**] me not to leave you, *Or to* turn back from following after you;  
For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people *shall be* my people,  
And your God, my God. 17Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, If *anything but* death parts you and me.”**

**18When she saw that she [**[**f**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ruth+1&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-7146f)**]was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her.**

Naomi in the natural tells them to turn back because she looks at her inability rather than God’s capability. She doesn’t think she can help them. In the natural, she doesn’t have much to offer, but she doesn’t realize her greatest asset is her knowledge. She knows how to return to the promised land.

* During your move, you may lose some things you love, but you will still have left what you need.

Naomi knows how to bring a young person to praise=Judah.

Three characters you will meet along the way:

Orpah – hang with you for a while but eventually will go back. Might be painful, but you may lose someone along the way. They start out okay in the right direction but only go so far.

* Some things you have to let go or else you will never make it to where God is blessing.
* It may be painful and generate tears, but you can’t let the world or emotions pull you back to your Moab.

Ruth – More than just lip service. Determined to follow her to the promised land. I’m looking for someone to mentor like that.

* Naomi loses more along the way, but she still has what she needs in Ruth.
* Don’t trip over what you may have lost along the way, God will still allow you to hold onto what you need for your next season.

# Sermon – Ruth – Have the Right Attitude About Your Move

Ruth Chapter 1:19-22

Preached at Cloverdale Baptist Church 6/11/23

**Background:** Naomi finds herself in Moab. **Note:** where is you Moab today? Where is that place in your mind where you go when things get tough, and you fail to continue to stand on the promises of God? A famine or hard time caused them to want to move from the Promised Land. This turns out to be a mistake and a bad decision. Key points from last week:

* Don’t move from the promises of God during a famine or tough time. Stand on His promises.
* Don’t spend too much time in the wrong place. You will lose more than you gain.
  + It may be time to leave where you are losing and get to where God is moving.
  + How much will you lose before you move?
  + You’ll never get where you’re going until you leave where you are.
  + If it wasn’t for the loss and tragedy….she never may have moved.
* Your move starts in your mind…change your mind.
* The word is designed to get you to move in the right direction.
* The Word still works today. The Gospel or good news from God is designed to reach you no matter where you have fallen.
* Imagine
* God can’t make you move but will bless you when you move.
* Some people will only go so far and then turn back.
* During your move, you may lose some things you love, but you will still have left what you need.
* There is a word for our situation that will set you free. The is a word for your Moab, a word to address your fear, doubt, anger, brokenness; there is a word that can deliver you from Moab and get you moving again in the right direction.

Application for Today (Orpah):

* About Orpah – was headed in the right direction, started out okay but only got so far.
* Are you Orpah…just giving lip service, emotional, sincere…but not abiding like Ruth.
* Orpah moment, there for a minute but going back to your old self.
* Hardest thing for a Christian is not becoming one, but staying one.
* Loved Naomi, but not enough to walk with her….be careful we don’t do this with Christ.
* Your future is not in your past.
* Any move that gets you closer to where God is moving is better than staying in your previous state far away from God.
* Are you like Orpah? You started out strong and headed in the right direction by faith, but find yourself always headed back in the wrong direction or going back to sin, the world, or self.
* You can never experience God’s best by going back to the wrong situation and the wrong gods.

Application for Today (Ruth):

* Many of us want and desire His best….but don’t stay committed to working toward it. Want good blood pressure but won’t eat right; want a great marriage but won’t act right.
* Ruth represents the sold-out believer who by faith pursues God’s best and will not turn back or return to the bad place that she just left.
* There is a difference between one-time faith and faithfulness (a made-up mind).

Ruth 1:19-22

**19Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, “*Is* this Naomi?”**

**20But she said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. 21I went out full, and the Lord has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?”**

**22So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.**

Verse 19 – they continued….staying on the path is a requirement to getting in position for God’s best. Keep moving until you get there…to the place where God has promised to bless. Made it to Bethlehem. City moved when they saw Naomi.

* If you want to generate some excitement in the Kingdom, see somebody come to God.
* You want to get some church folks excited, tell them somebody has come from Moab and arrived at the Promised Land.
* When Naomi decided to move, her move got everybody else moving with excitement. Your move is not just about you.
* The Bible says the Angels rejoice when someone gets saved.

Verse 20 – Wants to be called Mara = bitterness instead of delight. The pity party has begun. This is not her best season…thinks better days are behind her due to all she has suffered and lost.

* You will be bitter when you focus on what you lost back there, rather than what you have right now in God.
* Leave the bitter in Moab because the better is on the way when you’re standing in the right place.
* Needs to change her perspective, because being in BethlehemJudah broke and empty is better than being in Moab full.
  + Being broke and saved is better than being lost and full.
  + If I’m empty with God, He is about to fill me up….that is a Spiritual principle!
  + Better for me to be in the wilderness with God than in Egypt with Pharaoh.
  + Better to be going through a tough time with God than to be partying with the devil.

Verse 21 – You might have to become empty before you can get back right with God. They went out full, but I don’t see where God told them to leave in the first place. Don’t blame God for your bad decisions….that’s on you. But you can blame Him for bringing you out.

Verse 22 – Naomi….went out full, says she was returning empty, but she was wrong…..she had someone with her. Arrived at the beginning of barley harvest which would be near the time of Passover. That’s the first step. Even though she had been away for a long time, she still arrived in time to participate in the harvest. Not disqualified…..may have missed some years but the opportunity still exists for her to receive His best.

* Wasn’t the middle or the end but the beginning. Whenever you get there…it is the start of something great. Just get there.
* The beginning of this season….which means the best is yet to come. This was Passover time….there is a greater harvest and better times designed after this. Best is in front of them.
* Barley was the first harvest; second one was wheat.
* Didn’t ha. much to show for her time in Moab….but just because she planted in Moab, doesn’t mean she can’t reap in Bethlehem. You don’t have to end up there or stay there (Moab)…change your attitude and intentions…..not too late to change your mind.
* Wait…..if she went out full back then during the famine…..why did they leave? If they were rolling like that…why leave and go to Moab? They could have and should have stayed in Bethlehemjudah.
* Spent more than a decade in the wrong place, but that doesn't mean you can’t redeem the time.

Application for Today:

* Your previous mistakes do not disqualify you from receiving God’s best.
* Whenever you decide to return to God and seek Him, it is always the beginning of your journey. You can still receive and enjoy His best for you.
* V-22 – coming back empty was the key to her breakthrough.
* Whenever you get back to God, it is never too late, and it is always on time.

# Sermon – Ruth – Leftovers Are Okay – Father’s Day 2023

Preached at Cloverdale 6/18/23

**Ruth Chapter 2:1-14**

**There was a relative of Naomi’s husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name *was* Boaz. 2So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, “Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after *him* in whose sight I may find favor.” And she said to her, “Go, my daughter.”**

**3Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field *belonging* to Boaz, who *was* of the family of Elimelech. 4Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, “The Lord *be* with you!” And they answered him, “The Lord bless you!” 5Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, “Whose young woman *is* this?” 6So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, “It *is* the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. 7And she said, ‘Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.’ So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house.”**

In this chapter we are introduced to Boaz (fleetness) who will play the role of the Goel or the Kinsman Redeemer (see Leviticus 19:9-10). Boaz was a relative of Naomi’s husband and was rich. Boaz in this story he is a type of Christ…from Bethlehem.

Don’t miss this. So, Naomi is flat broke, poor in spirit and poor in her bank account. But she has a rich relative who is coming from Bethlehem who is about to turn her life around.

We too, when we are broke and humble and in recovery, have a rich relative, who came from Bethlehem, who when we get in position and in right relationship with him, can also turn our life and situation around; you better pick up what I’m putting down….we have a kinsman redeemer too. Jesus is our kinfolk, and we are related through the blood of the Lamb and by faith.

Ruth wakes up with the right mind. Starts the day off humble.

* Ready to put in that work.
* Willing to work at a very humbling job.
* Excited about picking up leftovers.
* Has a hope that someone will notice her effort and give her a hook-up or favor.

She asks permission and Naomi gives her approval.

Since it’s Father’s Day, let me leave some notes for us fathers as we move through this story:

* We need to teach our children to start off their day like this. Be humble, turn from being lazy, be excited about your current work opportunities, do your right now job well and you will get favorable attention.
* Teach your kids about transition.
* Teach them to speak faith.

Verse 2 – Ruth is willing to glean, which is to pick up leftovers. 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 took the initiative when she got there. Didn’t just sit around. She worked.

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

* 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 doesn’t just talk about getting a job, she puts her words into action; 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. She is only getting leftovers, but she is in the right place because Boaz owns the field.

Nothing just happens, God has a purpose behind it.

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.
* It is the bridge God uses to move you from one season to a next or better season.
* 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.

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. “The Lord be with you”. That’s powerful. 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 without demeaning his status.

**Father’s Day Tip:** Meet your children where they are. You might have to go see them before they come to see you. When you get there, don’t let work and chores be the first thing out of your mouth, instead, start off with the Lord.

Verse 5 – Boaz notices Ruth. Hard workers look good and get noticed. We wouldn’t typically take notice of Ruth. Boaz does. Humility is attractive to God. Faithfulness in transition will also get God’s attention.

The servant describes her as the Moabite woman. She is referred to as where she came from and who she used to be even though she is working in the right place. She is about to be blessed but still referred to as that girl from that place….but all that will change after while. Don’t let your past or where you came from hinder or discourage you, keep pressing forward in the Lord.

Worked all day and took one break. You can take a break, but don’t spend too much time at the water cooler.

**8Then Boaz said 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.”**

**10So 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?”**

**11And 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. 12The 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.”**

**13Then she said, “Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants.”**

Verse 8 – Boaz speaks to her. A type of Christ in the story addresses her in the following manner.

* Listen – He wants to ensure Ruth is listening before he tells her anything more. Some people hear but don’t listen.
* Call her his daughter to remind and establish the relationship.
* Don’t glean someplace else.
* Don’t leave this place where you are now.
* Hang around my young people who are working in the same field.
* Follow after them and keep your eyes on where they are and follow after they go through.
* You will be protected and provided for when needed.

**Father’s Day Tips:** Meet your child where they are. Make sure they are listening.

* Don’t pick up stuff in the wrong place.
* Don’t hang out with the wrong folks; hang out with the right folks who are already doing the right things in the right place.
* 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 getting leftovers today….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.
* Let them know there will be times when they will have needs and thirst, but show them how to get relief.
* Tell them you have their back and support when they obey and stay on the right field.

Verse 9 – Keep your focus on this field where these workers are. Follow after them as an example. He has charged that if she stays 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. 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 – Why is Boaz (type of Christ in this story) taking an interest in her. Boaz’ answer, he 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?

* Because of what Ruth did for others. Faithful and committed to her mother-in-law; 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 will repay her for her work by giving her a full reward. 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.

**Father’s Day Tip:** Tell your children how God will bless. It is not always about you, God rewards those who bless others. What you make happen for others, God will make happen for you. Teach them spiritual principles. But you have to know them for yourself dad before you can teach others.

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. This is good news.

**Father’s Day Tip:** Provide words of comfort when your child comes correct. Do this especially if your kids are not like the other kids or they see themselves as outcasts. Tough love is not always led by the Spirit.

Summary:

* Ruth is making the right moves.
* Stays humble.
* Okay with leftovers.
* Hard worker, speaking faith and trusting in God for favor.
* As a result, she receives favor, revelation, a promise of future blessings, further instructions and encouragement. She has a big payday coming.
* All Fathers could learn something from the spiritual example of Boaz:
  + My dad was a good father. He is a big reason why I’m successful today. But he didn’t and couldn’t tell me all of the things Boaz told Ruth.
  + I consider myself a good father and a better father than my dad; but there are some things Boaz did for Ruth that I didn’t do.
  + Why – we didn’t know any better; we were looking at the world’s standard rather than using God’s standards as our measuring stick. Pride can get in the way.
  + Why didn’t I know – nobody broke the word down like this so I could understand.
* It’s Father’s Day but I think instead of waiting for them to call me, I might…
  + Meet them where they are.
  + I want to make sure they are listening.
  + I want to share what I know about Kingdom living.
  + Leave them with words of comfort.

# Sermon – Ruth – Blessed in Transition -- On Purpose

Preached at Cloverdale Church June 25, 2023

Chapter 2 Continued

**14Now Boaz said to her at mealtime, “Come here, and eat of the bread, and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar.” So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched *grain* to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back. 15And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. 16Also let *grain* from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave *it* that she may glean, and do not rebuke her.”**

Background:

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.

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

* Stay close to others like you, who have 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? She appreciates what she didn’t have before even though it’s still leftovers.
  + 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, she knew before, she left behind…the world she knew before…she left behind.
   1. We all have to do the same steps as Ruth in order to be in the right position and relationship with God.
   2. We have to turn from sin, bad decisions, and the world and change directions by faith and turn to God.

* There are promises associated with this move/steps…..You get paid from God.
  + 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.

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.

* 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.
* The Book of Ruth is read during the Feast of Pentecost by the Jews. There is great significance in this story for the church:
  + Two wave loaves -- 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 were expected during Pentecost….Deut 16:9-12.
  + There is indeed a connection to the church in this story.
* Boaz passes her some grain….on purpose. Parched is dry roasted grain. He doesn’t hide what he is doing. She is not like the other workers, but sitting with the reapers.
* If we do what Ruth does, we may be blessed like she does.
* God wants to bless you and I like Ruth.
* God want to bless this church like Ruth, on purpose and openly.

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 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 are 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.
* Walking into blessings. She didn’t see it in advance until she got there. Just because you can’t see it now, doesn’t mean you won’t be stepping into it soon.

Let’s analyze this. Why does Boaz want Ruth to be blessed on purpose? Why does he tell his workers not to interfere with this blessing?

* Perhaps to encourage her because transition can be tough.
* Maybe to let her experience what the next season can be like; to provide hope.
* To participate in what God was about to do for her in rewarding her faithfulness.
* To teach a spiritual principle, part of the plan of God and good news of the Gospel is to bless and increase His people who obey the word.
* To enable her to bless someone else.

If this is a spiritual principle, then we should be on the lookout for these same blessings that we may be walking over. Is it possible that we are getting blessed during our transition on purpose and not know it? Check again around you and see if God is breaking off some blessings.

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 leftovers. 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.
* 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.

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.

* The wheat harvest is around Pentecost. This entire Christian walk is a process and seasons.

Summary Observations and Application:

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.

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.

Now let’s look deeper, what does all this really mean?

Transition: I know where Ruth is coming from, but where is she going to? The promised land. Why is Boaz trying to help her to get there….because it is part of the plan.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Steps | Ruth | Israel/Christ | You | Cloverdale |
| Passover | Arrives humble | Kills the lamb  Cross | Need God | Humble – in need |
| Unleavened Bread | Leaves past, turns to gleaning | Leaves Egypt  Grave | We turn from trusting in ourselves and turn to God | What are we turning from? |
| First Fruits | Hope in favor and Boaz | Crosses Red Sea; Resurrection | Our hope is in Christ | Do we have new hope/mind? |
| Pentecost | Receives further instructions & blessings – filled | Law given  Holy Spirit poured out | We are led by the HS, to do those things that bring God glory | Are we led by Holy Spirit? Have we received further guidance? |
| Trumpets - Rapture | She extends mercy to others | Rapture | How to extend mercy to others | Are we extending mercy to others? |
| Day of Atonement | Chapter 3 | Second Coming |  | Are we experiencing victory? |
| Tabernacles | Chapter 4 | Christ reigns |  | Are we experiencing His best; peace? |

Transition Survival Tips

* Practice the steps.
* Obey the Word.
* Be on the lookout for blessings.
* Count your blessings daily.
* Use the blessings to help others.

How God helps us:

* Provides us a Boaz.
* Gives encouraging words.
* Provide additional instructions.
* Provides examples to follow.
* Provides blessings on purpose along the way.

# Sermon – Ruth – The Importance of Mentors, Part 1

Ruth Chapter 2:17 – 23

Preached at Cloverdale Baptist Church, July 2, 2023

Background:

Ruth as we saw in the previous chapters is going through the transition process. She is not where she used to be in Moab, but is not where God ultimately wants her to be. Transition is where you are in better position than you were yesterday, but still going through a process that can be difficult before you receive God’s best. Everyone who is a Christian goes through this process but some, perhaps many don’t make it through transition.

It is part of the process that brings you to another level of relationship with God or promotion. We discussed last week the process map, where Ruth followed the first steps and reached Level 4. Level 4 is representative of receiving the Holy Spirit. The Spirit fills us and provides instructions and guidance on how to live our lives for His glory and bring us through transition. The Spirit was likewise there in the wilderness to lead the Children of Israel through transition.

Here too we see Ruth is getting filled on purpose; she receives a promise on purpose; and she is blessed on purpose. How is she getting blessed? Because Boaz (a type of Christ in this story) has instructed it.

The application for today is clear, as we as a church and we as a people follow the steps in this process, Christ must also fill us, provide further instructions, and bless us on purpose. It must happen because it is part of the process. Jesus Christ has instructed that we be blessed and filled on purpose.

Why is Boaz doing this for Ruth?

* To encourage her to stand on the promises.
* To get her to the next level and a greater reward. To help her through transition.
* To increase her faith and encourage her.
* So, she can be a blessing to someone else (Level 5)

Let’s continue our story about Ruth.

***17So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. 18Then 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.***

Verse 17 – Ruth gleaned until evening, worked during the day. Notice, she 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. Ephah of barley…..about 22 liters or ~6 gallons.

The point here is that we should daily count our blessings.

Still in transition getting leftovers but Boaz is making it easier. You can see Boaz/Christ helping you when you count your blessings.

Verse 18 – Ruth took what she gleaned and went home, and Naomi saw what she had. 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.
* God will hook you up with extra so you can bless someone else in need.

***19And her mother-in-law said to her, “Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one who took notice of you.” 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.***

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

Summary Observations and Application:

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. She explains she has been hanging with Boaz.

* 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.
* The way she left wasn’t the way she came back. She was empty when she left, but full when she returned.
* Cloverdale should be that place that if you came here one way, you experience Jesus and leave better than when you came. Someone should see you when you return and see a difference because you spent time in this place. My hope is you can take something from your experience today that fills you up and people will see and benefit from what you received from this place.
  + We should hope that our fields, our homes, our schools, churches, are like the fields that Ruth gleaned from.

Your future is not in your past.

***20And 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. 21And Ruth the Moabitess said, He said unto me also, Thou shalt keep fast by my young men, until they have ended all my harvest. 22And 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.***

***23So 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 20 – Naomi knows Boaz. He’s kin-folk to her. Boaz is a type of Christ in this story.

Ruth doesn’t know who Boaz really is and the importance of the relationship. But Naomi does. What Ruth doesn’t know; Naomi does know.

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 people. 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.

* The wheat harvest is around Pentecost. This entire Christian walk is a process and seasons. Ruth is stepping into and experiencing Level 5….blessing someone else with what she was blessed with.

Application for Today:

* 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.
* 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. Mentors may be a critically important part of your journey.
* Naomi not only confirms what Boaz says, but she provides the clarification that Ruth needs. That’s what good mentors do. It is important that you have someone who knows Jesus better than you.

Where is Cloverdale again on the spiritual journey map?

Where are you? Can you identify your role in the story? Gleaner, reaper, Naomi, Ruth….we already know who Boaz is.

# Sermon – Ruth – Signs of a Good Mentor, Part 2, Go After It the Right Way

**Preached at Cloverdale July 16, 2023**

**3 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? 2Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, *is he* not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. 3Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your *best* garment and go down to the threshing floor; *but* do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. 4Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do.”**

Verse 1 –Here we see Naomi wanting to be a mentor and help Ruth find success and security. Here are some traits of a good mentor:

* Good mentors are excited about your future; they want the best for you.
* A good mentor and a divine appointment will be concerned about your well-being.
* They tell you what is worth pursuing.
* They tell you how to properly pursue it.
* They are not after what you’re after…not after your harvest.

Verse 2 – Naomi points out that Boaz is kin folk in the form of a question. A good mentor will ask key questions that help to remind us that we have a relative in Jesus Christ.

Naomi understands things about Boaz that Ruth doesn’t know. Ruth doesn’t know about the Kinsman Redeemer process and she doesn’t know that her season of harvest has arrived.

* But Naomi knows and begins to enlighten her on the process. That’s what good mentors do….they teach and share their knowledge.

We will cover this in more detail in Ruth Chapter 4, but it works like this. God intended for people to have what they lost restored. If you had to sell off your land because you were poor, you could have a rich relative buy it back or redeem it for you.

**Leviticus 25:25-27**

**25‘If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold *some* of his possession, and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold. 26Or if the man has no one to redeem it, but he himself becomes able to redeem it, 27then let him count the years since its sale, and restore the remainder to the man to whom he sold it, that he may return to his possession.**

Also, in ancient Israel if a husband died without children, the law allowed for the husband’s brother or next of kin to marry his widow out of respect and kindness. This allowed the deceased brother to carry on his name and provide an inheritance to his family. We see this in Deuteronomy 25 and will discuss this in detail in Chapter 4.

**Deuteronomy 25:7-9**

**5“If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be *married* to a stranger outside *the family;* her husband’s brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her. 6And it shall be *that* the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel. 7But if the man does not want to take his brother’s wife, then let his brother’s wife go up to the gate to the elders, and say, ‘My husband’s brother refuses to raise up a name to his brother in Israel; he will not perform the duty of my husband’s brother.’ 8Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him. But *if* he stands firm and says, ‘I do not want to take her,’ 9then his brother’s wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and answer and say, ‘So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother’s house.’ 10And his name shall be called in Israel, ‘The house of him who had his sandal removed.’**

Naomi as a mentor tells Ruth where Boaz can be found this time of year and what he would be doing. Naomi – her mission now is not just pitying her situation. She is looking to hook Ruth up. Notice she is broke, but she can greatly help Ruth with what she does have. Naomi has considerable knowledge of who Boaz is in relation to them and his biblical role as a kinsman redeemer. She doesn’t have wealth but she does have a wealth of knowledge and experience. She knows Boaz. Knew about the law of the kinsmen redeemer (Goel). There is a huge application here.

Verse 3 – Naomi gives Ruth instructions to prepare for meeting Boaz.

* Wash up.
* Anoint yourself.
* Put on clean and appropriate clothes.
* Get down to the threshing floor where the work was performed.
* Wait until he’s done eating and drinking in celebrating the harvest.

Verse 4 – Further instructions to Ruth are to mark the place where he lies down and go in and uncover his feet and lay down at his feet. He will then give her further instructions.

* You will get divine instructions before you get the divine promotion.
* Go after it the right way; dress for success….you may need to get rid of some stuff, wash some dirt off you.
* Notice the instructions here. She is supposed to then humbly follow and lie down in the place where he is…at his feet. When she approaches him in this manner….then he will tell you what to do next. Oh, there is a spiritual application here for real. If you don’t come correct….you may not know what to do in order to receive God’s best.
* In some of my favorite commentaries (David Guzik) it is noted that to uncover feet, was a custom or act of total submission. It was a sign of approaching someone in a humble way and looking to come under their protection.

Application for Today: We also have a rich relative represented in Jesus Christ. Our security and future rest in our submissive relationship to him.

Personal Example ion the Natural:

One day my son who was in high school at the time was getting ready to interview for a summer job. He was about to leave the house for his interview when I noticed how he was dressed. He had some khaki shorts, white sneakers and a button-down short sleeve shirt. I stopped him quickly and asked him about his dress. I told him I didn’t think that was appropriate attire for a job interview. Of course, he didn’t see the problem with how he was dressed and he pushed back against changing clothes. Then I remembered this story of Ruth Chapter 3. I pretty much told him the same thing Naomi says to Ruth. I told my son I wanted the best for him. I asked him how many job interviews he had been on previously. His answer was none.

Note: It is always good to be led by the Spirit in finding the right question to ask. Always try and use it in the form of a question rather than an accusation so the person can search themselves rather than focus on you.

I explained that I had considerable experience in both being interviewed and interviewing others. I told him I have been involved in more interviews than he has underwear in his drawer. In the end, while he didn’t wear a suit, he was convinced enough to put on a more business casual uniform with long pants, shoes and a nicer button-down shirt.

When he returned from the interview, I asked him how it went. He was hired, but not just hired. He was given an opportunity to shadow other workers who were engineers on medical equipment. It was a comfortable indoor job which helped to inspire him to later major as an engineer later in college. It was indeed the best job they had offered. I asked if other people who had interviewed were hired. He said yes, some were but they were hired for outdoor maintenance type work. Now in the hot humid summers of Alabama, there is a huge difference between working outdoors and having an indoor air-conditioned gig. I asked him how the other kids were dressed for their interview. They all wore shorts and sneakers. I had made my point.

God may often place a mentor in your path, whether parent or minister or someone else who is connected to God to help guide you through the Word of God to lead you closer to Him and nearer the path He desires for your best season.

***5And she said to her, “All that you say to me I will do.”***

***6So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her. 7And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.***

Verse 5 – Ruth promises to obey these instructions. Naomi gives good advice since Ruth has not pursued this before. Ruth obeyed….that is a key to arriving at His best.

Application for Today:

* The key to receiving God’s best is to be humble and obey the instructions given in the current season, so you can be in position to be promoted and move into your next or better season.
* Without her obedience, Ruth will never be in position to receive God’s best.
* The same principle holds true for us today. Humble submission and obedience to the word of God is the key to your miracle.
* Hearing the Word, knowing the Word, and understanding the Word is important. But if you don’t obey and apply the Word to your life, knowledge of the Word alone will not do you much good.

# Sermon – Ruth Chapter 3, Part 3, When All You Can Do Is Wait

***8Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet. 9And he said, “Who are you?” So she answered, “I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative.”***

Verse 9 – She asks for him to cover her because he is her near kinsman redeemer. She is applying for the kinsman redemption clause.

* Uncovering his feet was a sign in those days of asking for protection.
* She is exercising her rights; her legal and spiritual rights. Come boldly to the throne of grace.
* Jesus may be referring to this same principle when he describes in Matthew 23:37; ***O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!***

**Leviticus 25:25-27**

**25‘If one of your brethren becomes poor, and has sold *some* of his possession, and if his redeeming relative comes to redeem it, then he may redeem what his brother sold. 26Or if the man has no one to redeem it, but he himself becomes able to redeem it, 27then let him count the years since its sale, and restore the remainder to the man to whom he sold it, that he may return to his possession.**

Boaz represents her redeemer or Goel. So like Christ is our redeemer, we should be found at his feet.

***10Then 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. 11And 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. 12Now it is true that I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I. 13Stay 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.”***

Verse 10 – He blesses her because she has increased in her level of kindness. Kindness here can be translated to mercy, goodness, or faithfulness.

Kinder now, and better now, and more mercy now, more goodness now, more faithful now than when she first started out. How did Boaz know that she was better now than at the beginning?

* She was still there. Every day she was going through the 5-step process of being a good gleaner.
* Because she didn’t seek the easy way out and settle for less than the best.
* Choices can have consequences; she was faithful until the end and didn’t pursue after others. Stay in the right field and pursue God the right way.

Verse 11 – Boaz tells her to fear not. What did she have to be afraid of for Boaz to tell her not to worry? There was the fear of rejection, fear of failure, fear of not being redeemed, fear of not getting God’s best, etc.

How does Boaz calm her fear? He makes a promise that he will fulfill her request and redeem her. Let’s her know she has a good name and reputation….all the city knew she was a good woman.

Application for Today:

* Just as Ruth faithfully awaits the promises of God, we too should continue to stand on His promises. Don’t become weary for He is faithful to deliver you. This is the story and testimony of Ruth.
* Interesting…she is broke, but she is celebrated as being a good woman. Your bank account, house, and clothes will not qualify you to be good.
* People notice you while you are going through transition by your faith in the promises.
* When you are in right position at the threshing floor…a place of separation….you don’t have to fear separation from Him.
* Faithfulness is better than one-time faith or sometime faith.
  + Many a Christian may start the race well, but greater is their faithfulness to continue to trust in Him.
* Too often we want to bypass the process and fast forward to the reward and happy ending.
  + It doesn’t work like that in the natural or the spiritual.
  + You can’t be a sports champion without practicing and working out.
  + You can’t get to the level 7 blessings and God’s rest and peace without going through the other 6 steps in their proper order and sequence. It is the process and plan of God.

Verse 12 – Boaz tells her there is another kinsman who is closer in relationship or older than him who has the first rights.

* The next of kin could buy back a relative’s property if they lost their inheritance. The near relative could get it back for them.
  + They must be willing to pay
  + They must be able to pay
  + They must be free themselves
* God intended to restore people, so this is written in the Word.

Application for Today:

* We too have a close relative in Jesus Christ through belief in his shed blood for the remission and forgiveness of our sins.
* Christ was willing to pay the price.
* Christ was able to pay the price.
* Christ is free indeed.
* The purpose of Christ’s ministry is to fulfill the plan of God for our lives which includes the restoration of His people. That is us who are believers in Him. God’s plan is to return to us what we lost.

Verse 13 – She receives instructions. Ruth is to stay there tonight. In the morning, he will see if the other kinsman is willing to perform the part of the kinsman redeemer. But if he doesn’t do that for her, then Boaz promises to step in and redeem her. She is to rest until morning.

* There’s an obstacle that night; but in the morning the obstacle will be gone. Don’t be discouraged if there are obstacles in your path on the way to your better season.
* Don’t become discouraged if He doesn’t take care of it that night or right now…just keep hanging around Him.
* Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.
* You made it this far and still running into challenges—but Boaz says don’t fear, he has this.
* She still hasn’t received God’s best yet, but she can praise Him because she has a new promise that she will be delivered.

Application for Today:

* The same principle holds true for us as believers today. If you know the promises God has toward you, you may find the same relief that Ruth has and be able to rest at night because you can trust God to keep His promises toward you.
* If you don’t know the promises God has for you, it can be found in the Bible and it can also be found in this story of Ruth.
* He is the same God. If He can make this happen for Ruth, He is willing and able to do the same thing for us. That is the plan!

***14So 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.” 15Also 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.***

Verse 14 – Boaz is concerned about her honor, so he protects her. He points out that some folks don’t need to know some stuff…even if innocent. Boaz didn’t take advantage of her. While you’re waiting on God to work out your problems in the morning; don’t be found sinning at night.

Verse 15 – Before she goes, he blesses her with 6 measures of barley (over 12 gallons). Why 6? She returns to the city.

* While she is waiting…she gets blessed. While 7 is the number for spiritual perfection, 6 seems to indicate the blessing is incomplete…so more must be on the way.
* That was probably all she could carry or handle at the time.
* Boaz didn’t give her more than she could handle.
* Notice, she didn’t get what she asked for yet, but she still received a great blessing. Just because you haven’t received what you asked for doesn’t mean you didn’t get blessed.
* Don’t complain about the blessing you receive. God knows what you can handle, and His best is still in front of you.
* She doesn’t yet receive the manifestation, but she has a promise and a blessing to encourage her along the way.
  + It will work the same way for us. While we continue faithfully through the process, we must stand on the promises and take note of the blessings along the way. They are designed to encourage and sustain you through the wait.
  + The indwelling power of the Holy Spirit within the believer should be blessing enough to sustain your faith in the promises to come in your life.

***16When 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. 17And 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.’ ”***

***18Then 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.”***

Verse 16 – Ruth returns to her mentor and tells her what happened. It is a good thing to tell your divine connection what is going on.

Verse 17 – Given 6 measures so she wouldn’t go home empty to her mother-in-law. God will provide what you need to get you through to your next break through.

* See how Naomi is also blessed as well and by design and on purpose. It is the will of God that both sower and reaper receive a reward (see John 4:36).
* Naomi has to ask who it is because of the blessing she walked in with.

Application for Today:

* You won’t come out of this empty if you help others reach His best.
* Naomi becomes a good mentor when she stops feeling sorry for herself, and puts others first.
* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

Verse 18 – More good advice…sit still and rest and watch Him work. She had done all she could do and needed to do. Boaz is at work now. Sit still until you see how it will work out.

* Boaz will not rest until the work is finished that day.
* Her answer is on the way.
* She has moved from Level 5 (extending mercy to others) to now Level 6 and trusting in Christ for the victory.

Application for Today:

* We have a near kinsmen in Jesus Christ. He will not rest until the plan of God is fulfilled.
* There is a point in the journey where we cannot rely on our own strength or efforts and must merely surrender and trust in God.
  + In fact, when we receive the Spirit and new birth, we should already be relying on the power of God within us and not our own flesh to finish the work. We cannot complete His will or please God in the flesh.
  + What is happening in your life where you need a level 6 miracle from God?

**Other Notes and Observations from J. Turner**

* Before God makes another move in your life, you may need to get rid of some stuff. Wash some dirt off and change your clothes.
* Pursuit is the part you must play in order to fulfill your destiny and God’s best.
* Wanting it real bad is not good enough.
  + We want to be blessed but sometimes keep doing dumb things trying to get there.
* Know your rights; you have a right to be blessed.
* It is not how you start, but how you finish.
* Jesus like Boaz also tells us to fear not. Christians can become fearful along the way.
* Fear can keep you from God’s best.
* The Law (Old Testament) represents legally what we were under; it is the example of the nearer kinsman before Jesus/Boaz. Boaz/Jesus will take care of the matter for Ruth/Us.
  + Jesus fulfilled the Law just has Boaz follows the Law.
  + Some obstacles you can’t handle yourself.
* While you wait, hold out your hand and receive the measured blessing now.
* Don’t complain about the measure, the outpouring is still on the way.
  + You don’t have all of it yet because you can’t handle it yet.
* While you wait, God will never let you return empty.
* Boaz is working it out for Ruth; Christ is working it out for us.
* Boaz/Jesus may be out of your sight, but he’s behind the scenes working it out for you.