



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

RUTH 2:8-18

LESSON: RUTH MEETS BOAZ — June 23, 2024

INTRODUCTION:

2:4-7 A HARD WORKER

Boaz had just come from Bethlehem, and greets the reapers: *"The Lord be with you"*, and they replied, *"The lord bless thee."* He notices a woman in his fields and inquired about her. The servant that was over the reapers told Boaz, that she was a Moabite that had come back with Naomi from the country of Moab. He continued to inform Boaz that she had asked to glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves. He also told how she came and has continued from morning until now, only resting in the house for a little while. At this point Boaz had not even has of her name, but he saw her workmanship. It was apparently unusual for an attractive woman to be gleaning the fields after the reapers; and it is obvious that Ruth was particularly attractive, catching the eye of Boaz. We are called to good works, and to have good work ethics - that alone is a tremendous witness.

- *First*, we see Ruth's initiative to care for her mother-in-law.
- *Second*, we see Ruth's humility. She knows how to take initiative without being presumptuous. She asked for permission.
- *Third*, she went behind the reapers.
- *Fourth*, we see her hard work. She is an amazing worker.

She does not demand a handout. She does not presume the right even to glean. She had said, *"Pray, let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers."* She is like another foreign woman who came to Jesus and said, *"Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs"* to which Jesus responded by extolling her faith.

LESSON:

I. RUTH 2:8-13

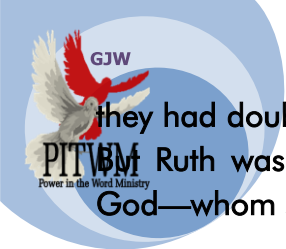
PROVISIONS SECURED:

2:8 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:— It just so happened, that Ruth had come to a part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. God is gracious and sovereign even when He is silent. As *Prov. 16:9* says, *"A man's mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps."* Boaz approaches Ruth and shows her great kindness, even though she is a foreigner. He provides food by telling her to **work in his field and not in another**, and **stay close behind his maidens**.

2:9 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. He provides protection by telling the young men not to touch her. And he provides for her thirst by telling her to **drink from what the men have drawn in their vessels**. So all of Boaz's wealth and godliness begin to turn for Ruth's favor, securing every provision she would ever need. He only asks her to stay in this field, **Go not to glean in another field (2:8)**. ¹The Lord also has promised that He will provide our needs with the same condition of looking to Him, and not another. Naomi and Elimelech should have learned this lesson earlier, than the hard way down in Moab, when

¹ <http://www.jesusplusnothing.com/studies/online/ruthchapter2.htm>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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they had doubted the provision of God in Bethlehem, and wandered off (Moab being the world's way). Ruth was single-minded and was dedicated to live by faith – firstly to Naomi and to Naomi's God—whom she had made her God; and soon to come, showing that same dedication to Boaz.

2:10 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?— Ruth is shaking her head - "*I don't get it. I just do not get it! Why are you so kind to me? I'm a Moabite! "Why have I found grace in thine eyes?"*" You can't help but **fall on your face** in humility **to the ground** with all these blessing. Proud people don't say thanks. Humble people are made even more humble by being treated graciously. She was amazed.

Moab was the son of an incestuous relationship between Lot (who was drunk) and his oldest daughter. And as a nation the Moabites were Israel's enemy, having opposed Israel when she came out of Egypt.

So why was Boaz so kind? Well, in the natural it was probably because he was by her beauty and workmanship, but what about the spiritual? Have you come to the point in your Christian life where you just have to stop and shake your head in disbelief at the grace of God? (*You've seen what you are like in your own nature, yet you still find yourself blessed by God*). That is why grace is so amazing. Boaz had given her free access to his field, protection from the young men, and water from the well. All she wanted to know is why me? Hallelujah! Such humility is a spiritual trait!

2:11 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. Boaz answers by saying, **It hath fully been shewed me...** What we discover is that Boaz knew all about Ruth and her commitment before she knew anything about him! He knew of her heart, and the sacrifice she had made to follow Naomi, and the Lord. She left her father and mother, and her land to come to people she didn't even know. This again pictures the Lord Jesus who already knows all that we are, even before we have begun to know Him. Ruth was someone who was dedicated, and loyal without trying to draw attention to herself, as well as humble and dependent upon grace. Boaz did not dwell on where she came from, but where her faith has brought her now. We can also look at Abraham and Sarah, following after God!

2:12 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. Boaz is only an instrument of God. Boaz is saying that God is really the One who is rewarding Ruth for her love to Naomi. This verse gives us a picture of God as a great winged Eagle and Ruth as a threatened little eaglet coming to find safety under the Eagle's wings. The implication of this verse is that God will reward Ruth because she has sought refuge under His wings. She has not earned mercy from God or Boaz. She is not their employee. They are not paying her wages for her work. On the contrary, she has honored them in her response of humility, by simply taking refuge in their generosity. Wherever Ruth went or whatever she did, her character remained the same by her responding in humility (*a humble heart*) because of the grace of God. She has bowed herself before a Holy and Awesome God, who has brought her into a place of blessings.

2:13 Then she said, Let me find favour 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. Back in verse **10**, she had asked Boaz "**why have I found favor?**" Boaz lets her know why. She is now saying to him after hearing what he said, she wants the favor to continue. She forgot all about her



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fears and rested on what he had said. Why? **First** because Boaz had **comforted her** with his words, and **second** Boaz had **spoken in a friendly manner** (*meaning, spoken to the heart*), even though she was **not one of the Hebrew handmaidens** but a foreigner. If someone does speak kindly and shows kindness to you, it would be from the heart, then you would really feel and know that you could trust them; you can rely on them. Boaz met her right where she was—someone who was in need. And that's how God meets us! Favor came by God's unmerited grace.

II. RUTH 2:14-18

2:14 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. ²Boaz showed great kindness and favor to Ruth at **mealtime**. It would be enough to have just invited her, but he also invited her to share fully in the meal, even the privileged dipping (*common custom in the East*); sitting among the workers; and Boaz serves some fresh roasted corn to Ruth. This meant that he **reached** in and got it for her lest she was too modest to get it for herself. **She had eaten until she was filled and left.**

2:15 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:— Not only had she been impressed with him, but he was now impressed with her! Therefore **Boaz commanded his young men** (servants) to **let her glean even among the sheaves**, meaning that she could now harvest the unpicked crop for herself. She had first chance at the best of the gleanings. With such care, she had no need to worry. She was **not to be reproached.**

Sheaves ~ some plants of wheat or barley tied together. The stalks of grain gathered and tied into a bundle after harvesting. The reapers either gathered the cut grain into sheaves themselves or left it to be collected. The sheaves were then gathered into stacks and loaded into carts.

2:16 And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her not. The Law gave the gleaners the right to leave **handfuls left on purpose**, meaning they were to literally drop handfuls of grain for others to glean. This is what Boaz told the young men to do for Ruth, and **not rebuke her**. Thus the kinsman's provision was more than adequate. Ruth had no idea that Boaz had commanded his workers to be so generous to her. She meets the one man who can change her future and her fate. Not only is the encounter of their meeting a pleasant one, but she immediately becomes the object of his special grace. What a beautiful picture of the love of Christ and His provision for His bride!

2:17 So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley. It was a long day and a primitive method of threshing. The poor still beat out the grains of barley or wheat at the close of the day by using sticks or stones. Ruth **beat out** (*threshed*) at the end of the day and had about **an ephah of barley**. An ephah was 1 bushel and 3 pints.

2:18 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. The average receipt of a gleaner was only enough to support a family for one day, and therefore the process had to be repeated constantly. However, Ruth returned home with an ephah of barley which would have been enough to support them for about five days. A bushel of barley was rather heavy for a young woman to carry into the city—about 60 pounds (*Every Commentator had a different amount for an ephah; all*

²http://www.blueletterbible.org/commentaries/comm_view.cfm?AuthorID=2&contentID=7551&commInfo=31&topic=Ruth&ar=Rth_2_13
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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we know is that it was a lot and it was heavy). Ruth was not only a diligent worker, but she was also careful not to waste anything God had given her. Naomi (the Jew) is now getting her blessings from Ruth (the Gentile). You might look at Ruth as the weaker vessel, a poor foreigner, a widow, bankrupt and poor, however, she accepted the King of all kings, the God of Israel, the Master and Ruler who spread favor upon the least likely. Look at what God can do! God sent the right blesser to provide the encouragement Ruth needed. She now knows that where she was, she don't have to stay there. She can now move from being poor, to somebody that has the power to get up; somebody that has confidence and self-esteem backing her up. We can't make it on our own! Ruth had the grace of God through Boaz. We have the grace of God through Jesus Christ!

SUMMARY:

³Boaz approaches Ruth and shows her great kindness, even though she is a foreigner. He provides food by allowing her to work in his field and stay close behind his maidens. He provides protection by telling the young men not to touch her. And he provides for her thirst by telling her to drink from what the men have drawn in their vessels. He only asks her to stay in this field, Go not to glean in another field.

Ruth raises a question which turns out to be very profound. It's one that we all need to ask God: **"Why have I found favor In your eyes?"** - Because as a non-Israelite she does not expect any special treatment. Her response to Boaz's kindness is astonishment. Ruth expresses her sense of unworthiness by falling on her face and bowing to the ground. He answers Why by saying, *"Because you have loved Naomi so much that you were willing to leave father and mother to serve her in a strange land."* What Boaz is really saying is that, God is really the one who is rewarding Ruth for her love to Naomi. And Ruth now says Let this favor continue my lord because Boaz had comforted her, and spoken kindly to her as if he would to one of his handmaidens (**2:8-13**).

Boaz invited Ruth at mealtime where bread was dipped, parched corn was eaten, and she was filled. After the meal was finished, she got up to glean and Boaz commanded his young men to let her glean among the sheaves and provide handfuls of grain to purposely be left for her, and don't reprimand her.

It was a long day and a primitive method of threshing. Ruth gleaned until evening and beat the gain out at the end of the day—about an ephah which was 1 bushel and 3 pints. She returned home and showed it to her mother-in-law and gave it to her—a tremendous blessing (**2:14-18**).

APPLICATION:

When you give of yourself to another individual and they are helped, you are teaching them to give of themselves to someone else. God empowers us to do and give what we can. We just have to depend upon Him! God will always place someone in our path for us to help!

Have you accepted Christ in your life yet? Will you accept Him today? That will be the first step in gaining a relationship with God in your life. Then God will have a chance to take care of every need in your life. Saying "Yes" to God, changes our destiny. Salvation is only in Christ Jesus! Be the woman or man of excellence God is looking for. For God will allow others to see and call you *"Blessed."*

³ <http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/sermons/ruth-under-the-wings-of-god>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

