

Ruth 2:1-23

Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek, whose name was Boaz.

² And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor."

Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter."³ So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek.

⁴ Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The LORD be with you!"

"The LORD bless you!" they answered.

⁵ Boaz asked the overseer of his harvesters, "Who does that young woman belong to?"⁶ The overseer replied, "She is the Moabite who came back from Moab with Naomi."⁷ She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.' She came into the field and has remained here from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter."

⁸ So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me."⁹ Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled."

¹⁰ At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, "Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?"

¹¹ Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband— how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before."¹² May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."

¹³ "May I continue to find favor in your eyes, my lord," she said. "You have put me at ease by speaking kindly to your servant—though I do not have the standing of one of your servants."

¹⁴ At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar."

When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over."¹⁵ As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, "Let her gather among the sheaves and don't reprimand her."¹⁶ Even pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don't rebuke her."

¹⁷ So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah."¹⁸ She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough.

¹⁹ Her mother-in-law asked her, "Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!"

Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been working. "The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz," she said.

²⁰ "The LORD bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead." She added, "That man is our close relative; he is one of our guardian-redeemers."

²¹ Then Ruth the Moabite said, "He even said to me, 'Stay with my workers until they finish harvesting all my grain.'"

²² Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It will be good for you, my daughter, to go with the women who work for him, because in someone else's field you might be harmed."²³ So Ruth stayed close to the women of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.



Act 2
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5/14/2017

A FEW IMPORTANT TERMS

HESED LOVE

Hesed is a description of God's faithful, long-suffering, covenant

LOVING KINDNESS.

THE GLEANING LAW

It fights **GREED** in the heart of the landowner, and provides a way for those on the **MARGINS** of society to glean and eat.

THE KINSMAN-REDEEMER

The one who **REDEEMS**, who buys back, who recovers, who **RESTORES**.

1. THE **SOVEREIGN** HAND OF GOD

- The eyes of **FAITH** are required to perceive the hand of God in the apparent "coincidences" or "accidents" of life.
- Having eyes of faith to see the wise work of a loving God requires that you first understand God's **CHARACTER**.

2. **DOING** HESED

(John 13:35)

3. **STRENGTH AND QUALITY OF CHARACTER**

- Doing *hesed* requires taking **INITIATIVE**; it will not get done if you sit back and wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.
- Doing *hesed* requires taking shelter under the **WINGS** of the Almighty.

(Psalm 17:8, Psalm 91:4, 1 John 4:19, Ephesians 1:7-8)



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GROWTH GROUP DIGGING DEEPER QUESTIONS

To catch the weekend message, go to: MissionTrailsChurch.com/growth-groups.

DIGGING DEEPER3

1. READ Ruth 2:1-23

After reading this passage, or thinking back to the weekend message, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, inspired or confused you?

2. What are the specific ways that you see God providing for Ruth and Naomi?

3. How is the *sovereign hand of God* at work behind the scenes in ways that not all of the people in the text immediately recognize?

4. Both God AND people are described in the book of Ruth as doing *Hesed* love. *Hesed* is a description of God's faithful, long-suffering, covenant loving kindness.

How do you see Boaz and Ruth "doing *Hesed*?"

GETTING PERSONAL

5. What obstacles to faith did RUTH have to overcome to a) trust God, and b) take action?

What obstacles of faith do YOU have to overcome to a) trust God, and b) take action?

6. "Grace is love that pays the price to help the undeserving one."

What does that mean to you? How do you see it in the book of Ruth?

BRINGING IT HOME

7. Who are the "foreigners" in your field; the destitute and down and out that your life touches? How can you show them God's loving kindness?

8. How does (or should) it change how you THINK, FEEL, and ACT to know that you have found refuge under the wings of God Almighty? (See Ruth 2:12, Psalm 17:8, Psalm 91:4)

PRAY TOGETHER