

Sermon: The Redeemer series; Date: July 8, 2018

Delivered by: Rev. Zach Fallon, senior high pastor

Bible text explored: Ruth 2:1–16

¹Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. ²And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." ³So she set out 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 clan of Elimelech. ⁴And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered, "The LORD bless you." ⁵Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" ⁶And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab." ⁷She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest."

⁸Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. ⁹Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn." ¹⁰Then she fell on her face, bowing 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?" ¹¹But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. ¹²The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!" ¹³Then she said, "I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants."

¹⁴And at mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. ¹⁵When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. ¹⁶And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her." [ESV]

Review and application:

1. What essential element of this story (*v. 1*) does the narrator share which neither Naomi nor Ruth have realized?
2. But what (*v. 2*) has Ruth already learned about the God of Israel's provision for widows and aliens? (See *Lev. 19:9-10* and *Deut. 24:19*.) Are these *a*) rights to which the destitute and immigrants are entitled, or *b*) a generous mindset that God requires his children to cultivate? What does God expect us to remember? (See *Deut. 24:22*.)

3. What (v. 3) should a committed child of God understand about Ruth “happening” to end up in the fields of Boaz?
(See *Psalm 139:15-16* and *Prov. 20:24*.)
4. What (vv. 4-5, 11) had Boaz already learned about Ruth from the “stir” about Naomi’s return?
What (vv. 6-7) did he now learn about her character?
5. How (vv. 8-9, 14-16) did Boaz demonstrate the generosity God expects?
Why (vv. 10, 13) do you think Ruth was so humbly astonished?
6. Why did Boaz’s answer (vv. 11-12) single out the One to whom Ruth had turned to in her extremity? (See also *Matt. 23:37* and *Ps. 147:11*.)