

1 Now Naomi had a kinsman of her husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. 2 And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after one in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

Boaz stayed in 'house of bread' in land of praise & prospered in spite of famine conditions—hard times prove who we are—rise or fall. Kinsman goel Providence (protective care of God) is working in the lives of these two women

Lev 19: 9'Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, neither shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10 Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger. I am the LORD your God. Boaz brother of Elimelech?

Very dangerous for attractive, foreign women to glean in unfamiliar fields. Shady, corrupt reapers, like gangs stalk & take advantage, even rape, if possible, vulnerable women. Yet God's hand on Ruth protecting her from predators.

Naomi & Ruth were destitute at this point & had nothing, *I went out full & came back empty' 1:21* No government assistants, no welfare, no one to support them, starve or glean in someone field—pick up what is dropped after harvest. So Ruth goes to glean—*She is a woman who is willing to work Pr 31:13 She looks for wool and flax, And works with her hands in delight. 14 She is like merchant ships; She brings her food from afar. 15 She rises also while it is still night, And gives food to her household, And portions to her maidens. 16 She considers a field and buys it; From her earnings she plants a vineyard. 17 She girds herself with strength, And makes her arms strong. 18 She senses that her gain is good; Her lamp does not go out at night. Industrious*

Abraham sent servant get wife for Isaac *Gen 24:12 And he said, "O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today, and show lovingkindness to my master Abraham. 13 "Behold, I am standing by the spring, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water; 14 now may it be that the girl to whom I say, 'Please let down your jar so that I may drink,' and who answers, 'Drink, and I will water your camels also';—may she be the one whom Thou hast appointed for Thy servant Isaac; and by this I shall know that Thou hast shown lovingkindness to my master."*

3 So she departed and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers; and she happened to come to the portion of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. 4 Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem and said to the reapers, "May the LORD be with you." And they said to him, "May the LORD bless you."

Ruth asked Naomi permission to glean—harvest time almost over, small window & w/o food the women go hungry. Ruth productive & conscientious

Boaz is honored by his worker because he honors them. If you want respect give respect. *Each of you in humility esteem, regard one another better than yourself Phil 2:3 A good name is to be more desired than great riches, favor is better than silver and gold.* We can ruin reputation & people by treating them badly, taking them for granted or looking down on them as less than us. **Not** just alienate them but drive others away who are looking on. But treating others w/ respect, esteeming people & giving them value as they deserve is a Boaz trait.

Providence of God has Ruth in right place, right time, right person *'man plans his ways Lord directs his steps'*

5 Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" 6 And the servant in charge of the reapers answered and said, "She is the young Moabite woman who returned with Naomi from the land of Moab. 7 "And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' Thus she came and has remained from the morning until now; she has been sitting in the house for a little while."

Boaz notices & inquires about Ruth. He is paying attention to her in a good way. There were scoundrels in the field looking for what they can get. Pay attention to a woman in an immoral way. Looking for opportunity to take advantage. *Phil 2:4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.* Boaz was looking out for the interest of Ruth

8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen carefully, my daughter. Do not go to glean in another field; furthermore, do not go on from this one, but stay here with my maids. 9 "Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Indeed, I have commanded the servants not to touch you. When you are thirsty, go to the water jars and drink from what the servants draw."

One quality in a man that stands out among women is **kindness** *Pr 19:22*
What is desirable in a man is his kindness...

He looks out for & protects her, tells where to glean, where to get water-
 instructs his workers not to touch her...he is a shield and protector w/o
 ulterior motives....makes her feel secure in his presence.

10 Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your sight that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

Ruth responds to Boaz **kindness** w/ unspoiled innocence--a woman in
 whom there is no guile. She is unpretentious & inexperienced in the
 coarser things of life—she has a **child-like** quality. She thinks less of herself
 than what others & Boaz think of her.

She is much like Mary the mother of Jesus who was surprised at Gabriel
 telling her she is favored of the Lord & chosen to bear the Messiah. Both
 women had the precious quality of wide-eyed innocence, **not phony or fake**

11 And Boaz answered and said to her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law after the death of your husband has been fully reported to me, and how you left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and came to a people that you did not previously know. 12 "May the LORD reward your work, and your wages be full from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge."

Ruth had a reputation--**we all do**. Boaz appreciates Ruth which **endears** her
 to him. He's taken an interest in her, studied her, looked into who she was
 & what she has done. Speaks of her hidden qualities--not just physical
 attraction. He sees her inner beauty, hidden qualities. Noticed her sacrificial
love for her mother in law & all she did for Naomi after Elimelech died, then
 her two sons-her husband-He praised & blessed her for her godly behavior

13 Then she said, "I have found favor in your sight, my lord, for you have comforted me and indeed have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants."

Ruth is thankful to Boaz & confesses he has been a comfort & strength to her and is grateful for such undeserved favor. Ruth is **self-deprecating** 'I'm not like your maidservants'. She saw herself as **less** than the others, lowly and humble. Ruth has a hidden modesty, unaware of her real beauty. **Rom 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.**

Ruth has an unspoiled quality about her, she didn't think highly of herself & not worthy of special attention. I find those who deserve appreciation are those not seeking it or feel they deserve it. However in God's providence he brings those around them who express the kind of praise that is fitting for them. We see it w/ Boaz and Ruth.

14 And at mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come here, that you may eat of the bread and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar." So she sat beside the reapers; and he served her roasted grain, and she ate and was satisfied and had some left.

Boaz is considerate of Ruth & honors her in front of all the people. Gives her a place of prominence at the table of the reapers & he served her. **Jesus girded Himself w/ towel and washed disciples feet John 13.** Pastor Chuck Smith tells of making coffee for Kay & brings it to her but he didn't drink coffee.

15 When she rose to glean, Boaz commanded his servants, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not insult her. 16 "And also you shall purposely pull out for her some grain from the bundles and leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her."

Boaz is unashamedly devoted & considerate of Ruth, even telling his servants pull grain from the bundles & leave it for her. He makes it known he favors her & not ashamed of it. **Jesus is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters Heb 2:11**

It is not weakness to express feeling toward one you love. Cold, unmoved stoic, macho attitude reveals insecurity. Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus, Paul showed great emotion toward his fellow believers. Don't be ashamed of public expressions of praise & affection toward the ones you love. It is what Boaz had toward Ruth.

17 So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah (6 gal) of barley. 18 And she took it up and went into the city, and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also took it out and gave Naomi what she had left after she was satisfied. 19 Her mother-in-law then said to her, "Where did you glean today and where did you work? May he who took notice of you be blessed." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, "The name of the man with whom I worked today is Boaz." 20 And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed of the LORD who has not withdrawn his kindness to the living and to the dead." Again Naomi said to her, "The man is our relative, he is one of our closest relatives." 21 Then Ruth the Moabitess said, "Furthermore, he said to me, 'You should stay close to my servants until they have finished all my harvest.'" 22 And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his maids, lest others fall upon you in another field." 23 So she stayed close by the maids of Boaz in order to glean until the end of the barley harvest and the wheat harvest. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

Ruth is diligent-gleans from morning to evening **12 hour work days**. **Pr 13:4** ***The soul of the diligent shall be made fat.*** God rewards hard work. Ruth shows that a diligent woman is a Godly woman. **Pr 31:25** ***Strength and dignity are her clothing, And she smiles at the future 26 She opens her mouth in wisdom, And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. 27 She looks well to the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness.*** **A description of Ruth**

There were 50 days from wheat harvest to Pentecost. The barley harvest was 2-3 weeks before wheat harvest. Ruth gleaned during both the barley harvest & wheat harvest—all those weeks. She was persistent & faithful never saying it's too hard, I'm sick & tired, I quit. **Boaz field**---Naomi realizing God's hand upon them, providence, God's leading in difficult circumstances, working all things together for good...came back empty but about to be filled again, even greater.