

Unlocking The Mystery & Treasure Of Our Inheritance

Lesson #39 Abide In The Field Of Grace

Law of Redemption Leviticus 25:47-50

Provision was made in the Law of Moses for the poor person who was forced to sell part of his property or himself into slavery.

1. When Joshua enters the land, the Promised Land is then granted to the 12 tribes.
2. The land was to stay in that tribe.
3. You could "lease" your land [sell the rights to use the land for awhile].
4. In the year of Jubilee, (1) all debts were canceled, (2) all slaves were set free, and (3) the land was returned to the original owner.
 - a. Physical example of spiritual truth fulfilled in Jesus Christ and will be finished at His 2nd Coming. The debt of sin is canceled, slaves of sin are set free and rulership of the earth will return to Jesus Christ and His bride forever.
5. When you "sold" your land, the title deed would also include the rules for title redemption.
6. There was a procedure which said your next of kin could purchase back the unused years [redeeming the land].
7. He had a right and a responsibility with regard to an impoverished relative.

Note: In Jeremiah 25, he was instructed to buy land right before the Babylonian captivity.

- a. Jeremiah's descendants will come back and claim the land.
- b. The title deed would be a scroll on the back of which would detail the procedure for redemption.

Law of Levirate Marriage Deut. 25:5-10

1. Deals with a widow who has no children from her deceased husband.
2. She can go to the next of kin and put a claim on him to take her for a wife and raise up children for the family.
3. Kinsman Redeemer had to meet 3 conditions:
 - a. He had to be a near kinsman.
 - b. He had to be able to perform the duty.
 - c. He had to be willing; it was not required.
 - d. If the kinsman chose not to perform this duty, he had to give the widow his shoe, a symbol of shame. He had failed to do the kinsman's part.
 - e. Redemption was completed when the price was completely paid.
4. The Kinsman redeemer was called a goel in Hebrew to his needy relatives.

Naomi = Type of Israel

Ruth = Type of Church = Gentile Bride

Boaz = Type of Jesus Christ, Redeemer

Naomi in Moab is in exile and destitute.

Ruth never replaces Naomi. [Church NEVER replaces Israel]

Ruth learns of Boaz's ways through Naomi [Salvation is of the Jews]

Change in Naomi:

In Ruth 1, God's hand fell hard upon Naomi and her family: A famine in Judah, a move to Moab, the death of her husband, the marriage of her two sons to foreign wives, the death of her sons. One blow after another caused Naomi to say [1:13, 20], "The hand of the Lord has gone forth against me . . . the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me."

In fact, she is so oppressed by God's bitter providence in her life that she can't see any of the signs of hope as they start to appear. She knows God is Almighty and rules in the national and personal affairs of men. She knows he has dealt bitterly with her. She has forgotten: in all the bitter experiences of His children God is plotting for their glory. Believe this! Remember it! Then we would not be as blind as Naomi seemed to be when God begins to reveal His grace. God's providence as well as bitter comes to Naomi in Ruth 1.

God lifts the famine and opens a way home for Naomi.

He gives her an amazingly devoted and loving daughter-in-law to accompany her.

He preserves a kinsman of Naomi's husband who will one day marry Ruth and preserve Naomi's line. But Naomi sees none of this.

At the end of chapter 1, Naomi says to the townspeople of Bethlehem, "I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the Lord has afflicted me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?" So Ruth and bitter Naomi settle in Bethlehem.

Ruth 1:22 It is the time of barley harvest. *It was also barley harvest when the Israelites entered the Promised Land [Canaan, inheritance] under Joshua.

In chapter 2 the Mercy Of God becomes so obvious that even Naomi will recognize it.

Ruth 2:1 There was a relative [kinsman] of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name *was* Boaz. [Boaz is the Kinsman Redeemer.]

Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The LORD *be* with you!" And they answered him, "The LORD bless you!"

Meet Boaz [in him is strength]: Relative of Elimelech, Naomi's long-deceased husband.

1. Naomi is destitute and poor. Her husband's kin is a mighty man and of great wealth.

a. Next of kin has responsibility and right to aid an impoverished relative

b. Next of kin has the right to redeem for his brother any of his estate which has been lost

c. He had the responsibility to take his brother's widow as his wife to "raise up seed in his brother's name to inherit his brother's land."

Ruth 2:4 Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The LORD *be* with you!" And they answered him, "The LORD bless you!"

1. Boaz - Man of God

a.. Things are not nearly as bleak as Naomi suggested in Ruth 1:11-13.

b. She implied there is NO ONE for Ruth and Orpah to marry to carry on their husbands' line.

c. Boaz is a next of kin with great wealth and a man of God.

Ruth was willing for God to have His way in her life SO God began His gracious work in her.

Ruth's tears will be turned into triumph.

Ruth's Character is Further Revealed: Ruth 2:2 So 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."

A. Ruth's Initiative to Care for Naomi

"Let me go to the field, and glean..." Ruth has committed herself to Naomi with amazing devotion and she takes the initiative to work and provide for her.

B. Ruth Lived By Faith In The Lord - Ruth 2:3a

³ Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers.

1. Ruth began to glean in the fields so they would have food to eat.

a. God's Law of Gleaning: When God's people reaped a harvest, they were to leave gleanings for the poor. [Lev. 19:9-10; 23:22; Deut. 24:19-22]

"Welfare system": Landowner could make 1 pass through his field. Leave for poor & widows

b. Faith: Take God at His Word and ACT ON IT!

c. Ruth found a field in which she could glean. Total act of faith = stranger & Moabite woman

C. God's providence: Ruth 2:3b She happened to come to the part of the field *belonging* to Boaz, who *was* of the family of Elimelech.

1. Ruth worked in the field belonging to Boaz. [field of grace]

Lesson: God's providential working in our lives is a delight and a mystery.

God is constantly working WITH us [Mark 16:20], IN us [Phil. 2:12-13], and FOR us [Rom. 8:28] to accomplish His great purpose.

Ruth "happened" to come to Boaz's field. God is gracious and sovereign even when He is silent.

Proverbs 16:9 "A man's mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps."

D. Boaz Inquires : Ruth 2:5-7

⁵ Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman *is* this?"

⁶ So 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.

⁷ And 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."

Recall: Ruth set out looking for someone who would show her grace. [Ruth 2:2, 10, 13]

a. Grace is favor bestowed on someone who doesn't deserve it and can't earn it.

1. Boaz [type of Jesus Christ] inquires about Ruth.

From this point on, Boaz focuses his interest solely on Ruth and not on the harvest.

a. When we commit our way to the Lord, what happens to us is by appointment; not accident.

2. God was about to create a new relationship that would completely alter her circumstances.

He is working the details out in order that Boaz and Ruth join together as husband and wife.

Why is He doing this? God has a Savior to bring into the world. Boaz and Ruth will become the great grandparents of King David. Our Savior comes from the line of King David.

- a. Lost sinners are outside the covenant family of God, bankrupt, and no claim on God's mercy.
- b. God took the initiative and provided a way for us to enter His family through faith in Christ.

E. Ruth's Humility -Ruth 2:7

Ruth is just the type of girl a godly man looks for. She is committed, caring, and humble.

As a foreigner and as a widow she has the right to walk into a field and begin to glean.

She knows how to take initiative without being presumptuous. She had said,

"Pray, let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers." She does not demand a handout. She does not presume the right even to glean.

F. Ruth's Work Ethic - Amazing Worker

v. 7 "She has continued from early morning until now without resting even for a moment."

v. 17 she gleaned until evening and then before she quit, she beat out what she gleaned, measured it, and took it home to Naomi.

G. *Evidences of God's grace in the treatment of Ruth by Boaz*

a. 2:8 Boaz took the initiative.

Ruth 2:8-9 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? When you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn.*"

- Grace = God makes the 1st move to come to our aid, not because we deserve it, but because He loves us and wants us for Himself.
- God took the initiative in salvation when we were spiritually dead [Eph. 2:1-10], without strength [Rom. 5:6], sinners [Rom. 5:8] and His enemies [Rom. 5:10].

b. 2:8-9 Boaz spoke to Ruth

- He interrupted his conversation with his foreman to speak to a poor stranger in his field.
- Almighty God has spoken to us in Jesus Christ and through His Word.
- Welcomed Ruth to his fields and told her to glean in no other.

H. Ruth 2:10 *Ruth's Response To His Offer Of Grace*

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 you should take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?

- She acknowledged her unworthiness and accepted his grace.
She fell at the feet of the master and submitted herself to him.
- She forgot her fears and rested on His promises.

Consider: Many people are miserable because they don't obey:

Instead of resting in His perfections, they focus on their own imperfections.

Instead of seeing His spiritual riches, they complain about their bankruptcy.

Heb. 12:2 Fix your eyes on Jesus. They spend so much time looking at themselves, their circumstances and other people they fail to do what Ruth did.

Center Your Attention On The Master

I. Ruth 2:11-12 *Response Of Boaz To Ruth's Submission*

And Boaz answered and said unto 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 left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before.

- Boaz noticed how Ruth [church-Gentile] has treated Naomi [Israel].

Ruth 2:12 The Lord recompense 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 [trust] take refuge."

God was caring for Ruth because she had taken refuge under His wings. She was the only one in the story who didn't try to take matters into her own hands and try to do things her way. Boaz fully knew Ruth's story: abandoned her home and her gods and put her faith in Jehovah. She had taken refuge "under His wings."

J. 2:13 Ruth's Response

Then 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."

K. 2:14-17 Boaz Promised To Protect Ruth & Provide For Her Needs

Now 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. ¹⁵ And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. ¹⁶ Also let grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave *it* that she may glean, and do not rebuke her." So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.

- He ate with her and personally handed her the food.
- He arranged for Ruth to have the first chance at the best of the gleanings.
- Told his workers to deliberately drop some of the harvest for her.
- Boaz saw to it Ruth was more than satisfied.
- Picture of grace = The master became like the servants to show his love to a foreigner.
- Jesus Christ has shared with us the riches of His mercy and love [Eph. 2:4], the riches of His grace, [2:7], the riches of His knowledge and wisdom, [Rom. 11:33], His riches in glory, [Phil. 4:19], and His unsearchable riches [Eph. 3:8].
- We undeserving foreigners are members of God's family and have all of His inheritance at our disposal.

L. Ruth 2:18-19 Ruth Goes Home To Naomi

Note: Last time we heard from Naomi she was sharing her bitterness with the women of Bethlehem and blaming God for her sorrow and poverty. When Ruth left for the fields to glean, Naomi said, "Go, my daughter." She did not offer any encouragement or prayers.

v. 18-19 Then 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. And 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." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz."

M. Ruth 2:20 Hope Rises In Naomi

Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law,

"Blessed *be* he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!"

And Naomi said to her, "This man *is* a relation of ours, one of our close relatives.

a. Naomi has moved from bitterness to blessedness because of the New Hope She Had In Boaz.

b. Hope sprang anew when Naomi realized Boaz was her near relative who had the right to redeem for her all she had lost. He is a near kinsman who can rescue relatives from poverty and give them a new beginning.

c. Naomi's hope: Boaz was wealthy and influential and had the power and ability to redeem her.

d. Naomi's hope: Boaz seems willing to redeem her and take Ruth as his wife.

Boaz lost his heart to this Gentile girl whom he first met as a gleaner in his fields.

N. Ruth's Hope

1. Her half-bushel of grain was the "firstfruits" of all Boaz would do in the future.

The Holy Spirit within us is the firstfruits of all God has promised us.

2. Although Ruth's supply of grain would be gone in a week, the witness of the Holy Spirit will remain until our hopes are all fulfilled when we see Jesus Christ.

3. The exciting new hope that possessed the 2 widows was centered in a person, Boaz.

4. My hope is centered in Jesus Christ. [I Tim. 1:1; I Thess. 1:3; Col. 1:27]

I Pet. 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a Living Hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

II Pet. 1:3-4 For His Divine Power Has Bestowed Upon Us All Things that [are requisite and suited] to life and godliness, through the [full, personal] knowledge of Him Who called us by *and* to His own glory and excellence (virtue). ⁴ By means of these He has bestowed on us His precious and exceedingly great promises, so that through them you may escape [by flight] from the moral decay (rottenness and corruption) that is in the world because of covetousness (lust and greed), and become sharers (partakers) of the divine nature. [amplified]

O. Ruth 2:22 Naomi's Counsel

It *is* good, my daughter that you go out with his young women, and that people do not meet you in any other field."

1. Do not glean in any field than the field of grace.

2. To continue to glean in the field of grace Involves Continuing To Repent.

3. Don't seek to add anything to Jesus and His finished work on the cross for your peace.

Ruth never dreamed the one in whose field she was gleaning was a near kinsman, a goel, one destined to redeem the family losses and bring them into great wealth. But it happened!

Gleaning in a different field:

Rules to keep, experiences to gain, steps to take, if we are to become victorious

Result: We struggle in our own strength and NEVER make the grade.

1. This implies Jesus is not enough for victory. We must DO or have an EXPERIENCE.

2. Invariably, what is added to Jesus becomes more important than Jesus and makes Him of none effect to us.

3. All additions to Christ are subtle variations of the way of works.

4. How tragic to starting in the Spirit and be found in another field seeking to be made perfect by the flesh.

5. What rest it is to return to the field of grace where the Holy Spirit works in us for our sanctification.