

Journey Through The Cities Of Refuge

Lesson #35

Ruth's Journey To Be The Bride

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It's interesting that Ruth is the 8th book of the Hebrew canon of Scripture.

Genesis is the book of beginnings. Exodus speaks of redemption. Leviticus teaches us to worship. Numbers teaches us how to walk with God. Deuteronomy stresses the importance of obedience. Joshua is about our victory over our enemies. Judges describes what happens when we fail to fully follow. The 9th book, Samuel, describes the establishment of the Kingdom.

Now think of these 9 books as an outline of Hebrew history:

- beginnings, redemption, worship, walk, obedience, victory, failure, ultimately God's kingdom. But in between Israel's failure and the coming of God's kingdom, God will call out a Gentile bride for His Son Jesus... thus, the book of Ruth, the 8th book; 8 is the number of new beginnings. The Bride is revealed before the Kingdom is set up. The Book of Ruth anticipates the church.

Types in Book of Ruth

Naomi	Type of Israel
Ruth	Type of Church = Gentile Bride
Boaz	Type of Jesus Christ, Kinsman-Redeemer
Unnamed Servant	Type of Holy Spirit

Key: Ruth never replaces Naomi. [Church NEVER replaces Israel]

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

Key: Romans 9-11 communicates the idea of the relationship of the Salvation of the Gentiles to that of the Salvation of the Jews. God made a promise to Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. God always intended that salvation would include the Gentiles.

➤ Ruth is a significant figure in Salvation history through her being grafted in.

Everything of Eternal Significance began when Ruth made the decision to follow her mother-in-law back to Bethlehem-Judah.

Ruth's Initial Commitment: Ruth 1:16c Your people *shall be* my people, and Your God, My God.

Ruth 1:22c Now they came to Bethlehem at the Beginning Of Barley Harvest. [significant]

The Barley Harvest is a pivotal, providential event in the Book of Ruth that allows the story to unfold, specifically by providing the setting for Ruth to meet her future redeemer, Boaz.

It is a time of provision that enables Ruth to glean in Boaz's fields. This timing is crucial to the plot, leading to their marriage and Ruth's inclusion in the lineage of King David.

Does the Holy Spirit seem to consider Ruth 2 of great significance? [Zeisler: One Fine Day]

Note: Ruth 1 covers 10 years.

Ruth 2:2-22 is the story of just one day. That should persuade us to listen very carefully to the details, to observe the scene, to wonder and enter into what these people experienced.

Key: Ruth is seeking grace. She is on the journey to become the Bride of Boaz.

Look for characteristics and attributes in Ruth which qualify her to become the bride.

Scope of Chapter 2

Ruth 2:2 And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Please let me now go to the field,

and glean among the ears of grain following one in whose eyes I shall find grace. [favor]

Ruth 2:21 Then Ruth the Moabitess said, "Furthermore, Boaz even told me to come back and stay with his servants until the entire harvest is completed."

This exchange occurs at the end of Ruth's first day of gleaning. It sets the stage for Ruth to stay and glean throughout both the barley and wheat harvests, all while living with Naomi.

Ruth 2:23 So Ruth worked alongside the women in Boaz's fields and gathered grain with them until the end of the barley harvest.

Then she continued working with them through the wheat harvest in early summer

- Passover was observed on Nisan 14.
- Feast of Unleavened Bread: Nisan 15-21; the 7 days after Passover
- Barley Harvest began on Nisan 17. The first fruit of barley was offered to the LORD as a wave offering on Nisan 17, the day Christ was resurrected.
 - ❖ Barley is associated with Resurrection Power.

It is the start of a new season of provision, redemption, and the resurrection of Christ.

Barley, being the first grain to ripen, represents the first fruits of the harvest and is a symbol of new beginnings & God's faithfulness.

- The barley harvest represents the beginning of new life in Christ.

Spiritual Journey of Counting the Omer to Feast of Weeks or Shavuot

From the beginning of the barley harvest you count the omer, 50 days, to the wheat harvest.

Time period of 50 days of transformation that needed to take place for the Israelites as they came out of Egypt to encountering God at Mt. Sinai.

- There would be a marriage contract with Jehovah.
- They needed to go through a process of transformation before Mt. Sinai.

Seven Weeks to Sinai



This journey was a critical period where God revealed His holiness, guided them, and prepared them to become a holy nation with a role to play in the world.

Ex. 19:3-6a And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel:

⁴ 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine.

⁶ And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' [God's Purpose for Israel]

I Pet. 2:9 But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,

His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him

who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; [God's Purpose for His Church]

Spiritual Journey Of Growing Into Mature Wheat: Dying To Oneself > Leads To Abundant Life.

Time Of Spiritual Preparation, Reflection, Purification, & Growth:

To Be Continually Filled With The Holy Spirit. [Eph. 5:18]

Ruth 2:2 Please let me now go to the field,

and glean among the ears of grain following one in whose eyes I shall find grace.

Glean: #3950 =Laqat = picking up the leftovers; to gather slowly and laboriously, bit by bit.

Note: Willing to glean; spirit of humility; not assuming her right as a foreigner

She is living off what she did not plant > GRACE

Ruth contains eight uses of "glean" portraying the Moabite widow moving from marginalized gleaner to honored bride. Wow! [8 = new beginnings]

Ruth 2:5-7 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.

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."

Unnamed Servant Who Was In Charge refers to an overseer whose special duty was to superintend the operations in the field, to supply provision to the reapers, and pay them for their labor in the evening. In Bible typology, the unnamed servant is often interpreted as a type of the Holy Spirit, as he acts as a representative and agent of his master, Boaz, who symbolizes Christ. He introduces Ruth to Boaz and facilitates the connection that leads to her redemption.

Reminder: The unnamed servant was there as the servant of Abraham who went to find

a bride for the beloved son, Isaac. This is a picture of what the Holy Spirit is doing in the world today. He is looking for a Bride for the Son, Jesus.

Ruth may not have known it, but she was under inspection. The supervisor was looking at how she worked, and he was impressed that she did an excellent job.

Ruth 2:8a Then Boaz said [his first words] to Ruth, "Listen carefully, my daughter."

Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but STAY close by my young women. This command was given by Boaz with her best interest at heart. [He is her kinsman-redeemer.]

- Remember: These were the dangerous days of the judges.

Stay = dabaq [#1692] is translated cleave.

- Means to stick to, adhere to, cling to, join with, stay in close proximity to
- Abide Fast, cleave fast together, follow close hard after

Dabaq describes something that sticks or clings to something else.

The Septuagint translates dabaq with the Greek verb kollao = glue which literally means to join closely or glue together. It is in the orist imperative which indicates

- a Command that is to be carried out even with a sense of urgency.

Ruth is commanded to stay [abide] 4x in chapter 2.

Abide = meno= dwell = remain= to take up permanent residence

- Abide is used 40x in John's Gospel. Jesus used abide 7x in John 15.
- Apart from me > you can do nothing.

Matt. 13:8-9, 23 But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop:
some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

²³ But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces:
some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

⁹ He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Understand = #4920 suniemi: It consistently portrays a level of perception deeper than mere information-gathering.

It is spiritual insight granted or withheld by God and verified by obedient response.

John 15:5 I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Key: A branch that only visits the vine instead of remaining attached to it, will never bear fruit. His Words living inside of you and shaping everything you do

Ruth 2:9a Keep Your Eyes On The Field Which They Reap And Go After Them.

Boaz is actually employing her to keep focused on where God's protection can be found.

- Stay where God's grace can be had.

John Butler: Importance of keeping one's eyes on the master's field: "If Ruth was going to do as Boaz said and gain the blessing and reward from gleaning in his field, she needed to keep her eyes focused on his field lest in looking at other fields she be tempted to go elsewhere.

- Going Elsewhere Would Diminish Her Blessing and Her Reward. [Take Heed]
- What we look at has much effect upon our spiritual walk and growth.

Matt. 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

We need to be persistent, passionate, purposeful, and committed in searching for the all-sustaining Word of God.

Ruth 2:9 I have warned the young men not to treat you roughly.

And when you are thirsty, help yourself to the water they have drawn from the well.

➤ Ruth had the Biblical sanction to glean [Lev 19:9, Deut. 24:19] but that sanction did not necessarily guarantee protection from assault, especially in the days of the Judges! God's Protection in Action A clear, enforceable order guarantees Ruth is safe from harassment. Psalm 121:5 The Lord *is* your keeper; The Lord *is* your shade at your right hand.

Key: God, using Boaz as His instrument, was protecting Ruth.

At the same time, God was protecting the seed of Obed [Ruth 4:21-22] and the integrity of the line of the Messiah [Matt 1:1, 5-6] from being "defiled."

Ruth 2:9c And when you are thirsty, help yourself to the water they have drawn from the well.

Hubbard What an interesting touch: a foreign woman who customarily would draw water for Israelites was welcome to drink water drawn by Israelites.

Boaz gave Ruth permission to drink from the water jars that the young male servants had filled for their use. This was a privilege not ordinarily permitted the gleaners. It is another manifestation of the undeserved favor [grace] that Boaz choose to bestow on Ruth.

God's Provision: When Ruth gets to drink what Boaz's men had already drawn for her, it's a picture of God's grace of provision. It's already prepared.

It is freely offered. It can't be earned.

This fact makes Boaz's offer exceedingly abundantly beyond all that Ruth could have asked or thought. [Eph. 3:20]

Boaz gives three instructions to Ruth.

Stay in my field. Stay close by my women. Drink from my vessels.

Dignity preserved: Boaz's words lift Ruth from vulnerability to honor, fulfilling

Ps. 113:7

Ps. 146:9-10

Ruth's Reaction To The Words Of Boaz

Ruth 2:10 So she fell on her face, bowed down 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?"

Fell #05307 naphal = literally to fall as from a higher to a lower position

The writer adds a second verb, shachah to present an even clearer picture of what transpired that day in the barley field. Shachah adds the nuance of doing so with an attitude which is also "bowed down." It is used to describe one prostrating one's self or bowing down before God with an attitude of reverence and worship.

The picture is of Ruth falling [naphal] to her knees and then bowing to the ground or laying herself out on the ground at the feet of Boaz.

Prostrate is defined as being stretched out with one's face on the ground in adoration or submission. It is not just that the person has fallen down but pictures them lying at length or with their body extended on the ground and so lying in a posture which is reflective of genuine humility and/or adoration.

John Butler: This most humble behavior before Boaz shows in action her belief that she is very unworthy of his favors.

Warren Wiersbe: Ruth neither looked back at her tragic past nor did she look at herself and consider her sorry plight. She fell at the feet of the master and submitted herself to him.

- She looked away from her poverty and focused on His riches.
- She forgot her fears and rested on His promises.

Response Of Boaz To Ruth's Submission

Ruth 2:11 And Boaz answered and said to 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 have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth and have come to a people whom you did not know before.

- Boaz noticed how Ruth [church-Gentile] has treated Naomi [Israel].
- This passage sets the stage for Boaz to reward Ruth's actions, resulting in her being "repaid" by God for her faithfulness.

Blessing of Boaz ¹² May the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done."

John Butler: Boaz prayed that Ruth would be given all the reward due her.
Full obedience brings full reward.

Many cut short their reward because they do not fully obey; they do not fully dedicate themselves to God's work. If you have not been "full" in obedience and dedication, do not complain if your reward is small. You have only yourself to blame.

Ruth Receives Extra Blessings & Provision While She Gleans.

Ruth 2:14-16 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, [Diligence] Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her.

Note: Normally gleaners stayed on the field edges; the sheaves belonged to the reapers.
Boaz extends Ruth's privilege to the very heart of the harvest.

¹⁶ Also let *grain* from the bundles fall purposely for her;
leave *it* that she may glean, and do not rebuke her."

- Ongoing Generosity: Boaz deliberately engineers abundance for Ruth.

Ruth 2:17 So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned,
and it was about an ephah of barley.

Beat out: #2251 Chabat: The verb points to an intentional, measured force
that brings hidden value into the open.

Ruth beat out what she had gleaned to separate the grain from the stalks and husks.

This laborious task allowed her to prepare the barley for use. Her determination to glean and then thresh the grain highlights her resourcefulness and resilience in the face of adversity.

Ruth 2:17 paints a vivid picture of diligent labor met by divine generosity.

From dawn to dusk Ruth works within God-ordained means, threshes her gleanings, and
ends the day holding an ephah that shouts God's abundant faithfulness.

This would have been a substantial amount of grain for Ruth to gather.

It highlights the favor and blessing that she received while gleaning in Boaz's field.
Ruth's ephah is an early sign of larger blessings to come: covenant inclusion, marriage to Boaz,
and her place in the lineage of David and ultimately Christ [Matt. 1:5-6].

II John 1:8 Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked so hard to achieve.

Be diligent so that you receive your full reward.

Ruth 2:18 So she brought out and gave to Naomi what she had kept back
after she had been satisfied.

Ruth 2:20b "This man *is* a relation of ours, one of our close relatives."

Ruth 2:21 Then Ruth the Moabitess said, "Furthermore, Boaz even told me to come back and
stay with his servants until the entire harvest is completed."

This exchange occurs at the end of Ruth's first day of gleaning. It sets the stage for Ruth
to stay and glean throughout both the barley and wheat harvests, all while living with Naomi.

Ruth kept busy and gathered food sufficient for herself and her mother-in-law.

- But now she was laboring motivated by a wonderful hope:
- She was joyfully anticipating the day of redemption!

Ruth 2:23 So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean

until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

The Wheat Harvest, associated with the Feast of Pentecost,

took place 50 days after the Feast of the First Fruits [Lev. 23:4-21; barley].

- During Pentecost, the first fruit of wheat was offered to the Lord.
- Wheat matures slower and represents maturity, the fullness of Christ's suffering and death and the fullness of the Holy Spirit.
- Growing in wheat means accepting the "death" of the selfish ego and bearing fruit through sacrifice.

The Growth Progression: While Christ died [wheat] then rose [barley],

believers experience the power of resurrection [barley] first, which empowers them to endure the trials, restrictions, and deaths [wheat] of the Christian life.

- New believer = barley = have the resurrected life of Christ in us = we are justified.
- We are to mature from barley to wheat [learn to die to self; sanctification]

Christian growth is from barley to wheat. The more we experience the Lord's resurrection, the more we are strengthened to take the pathway of the cross. The more we are enlivened by the Spirit, the more we are enabled to experience the Spirit's work of maturation.

Symbolic Maturity: This journey represents moving from simply enjoying God's provision to being broken and poured out, becoming "bread" for others through a mature, tested faith.

The story of Ruth poignantly represents these fifty days of crescendoing grain harvest.

Ruth, a poor, foreign widow, entered Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

- The barley harvest represents the beginning of new life in Christ.
- From the beginning of the barley harvest you count the omer, 50 days, to the wheat harvest.
- Spiritual journey of growing into mature wheat: dying to oneself leads to abundant life.
- Time of spiritual preparation, reflection, purification, and growth to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit.

Our Journey From New Believer To Mature Wheat:

Ruth is commanded to stay [abide] 4x in chapter 2.

- Abide = meno= dwell = remain= to take up permanent residence

Believers are called to "glean" from the Bible—extracting wisdom, truth, and promises that become their spiritual sustenance. This is what we live off of, what will sustain us, and it's how we'll grow. We can only be sustained as long as we are being fed.

Glean In God's Word Persistently

Hosea 6:3 Let us press on to know Him. Let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD

Heb. 11:6c He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

The Key to Growing in Godliness: I Tim. 4:6-7

Constantly nourishing ourselves on the words of the faith and of sound doctrine

Glean In God's Word Passionately

Job 23:12 I have not departed from the command of His lips;

I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.

II Tim. 3:17 "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." Knowing the great value of the Word of God produces in us a holy and unswerving passion to know it better.

Glean In God's Word Personally

Col. 3:16 Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Eph. 5:18b-19 but be Filled With The Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Glean In God's Word Purposefully

I Thess. 2:13 We also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the Word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

Prize God's Word as Treasure above all things.

I Tim. 4:15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

Ps. 119:165 Those who love Your Law have great peace, and nothing causes them to stumble.

Gleanings from God's Word:

- He leaves nuggets of truth to be gleaned.
- He provides us spiritual nourishment.
- May we be diligent to glean spiritual food in God's Word.

David Wilkerson: You cannot walk in the fulness of Christ and live on 5-minute devotions.

You cannot draw deeply from a well you only visit occasionally.

If you want more of Christ, make room for more of Christ.

John 15:4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.