

# Ruth

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## ***Boaz Provides for Ruth***

*Ruth 2:17-23: So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. 18 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. NASU*

Ruth did a full day's work; at the end of the day, she had between three and four pecks (enough to sustain Naomi and herself for about 5 days). Ruth is a great example of not becoming weary at working hard – for in due season we shall reap. Nor did Ruth take advantage of the kindness of Boaz, she accepted his generosity but did not abuse his graciousness and continued to work in the field and gleaned throughout the day. ***Proverbs 12:27***

***Proverbs 12:27: A lazy man does not roast his prey, but the precious possession of a man is diligence.***

After working in the field all day, Ruth worked to ensure her efforts were not wasted, she threshed her gatherings herself, making it ready to use upon her arrival at home. Upon her arrival home, Ruth provided for Naomi, as Boaz had provided for her at dinner (v14), fulfilling the command of God to honor ones mother and father. ***Matthew 15:3-6; 1 Timothy 5:4***

***Matthew 15:3-6: And He answered and said to them, "Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? 4 "For God said, "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER," and, "HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH." 5 "But you say, "Whoever says to his father or mother, "Whatever I have that would help you has been given to God," 6 he is not to honor his father or his mother.' And by this you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.***

***1 Timothy 5:3-8: Honor widows who are widows indeed; 4 but if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God. 5 Now she who is a widow indeed and who has been left alone, has fixed her hope on God and continues in entreaties and prayers night and day. 6 But she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives. 7 Prescribe these things as well, so that they may be above reproach. 8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.***

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*Ruth 2:19-20 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 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." NASU*

Observing how successful Ruth had been that day, Naomi inquired about where she had been all day. We do not know whether Naomi was asking out of general curiosity or motherly intuition. Nonetheless, Naomi noticed Ruth had done quite well for herself. Ruth explained everything that had transpired that day, giving credit where it was due. She acknowledged that her success was reliant on the generosity of Boaz. Both Ruth and Naomi were recipients of the grace shown to Ruth.

Naomi acknowledge blessed God for His generosity, through the hand of Boaz. In blessing Naomi and Ruth, God had blessed their husbands – now dead. Naomi and Ruth both show the grace of God in that they were excited with a little – because it was from the Lord. Naomi did not lose site of the fact that Boaz was a very close relative. *Psalms 37:9-18; Matthew 7:11; Luke 11:13; John 3:27; 1 Corinthians 4:7; James 1:17*

*Psalms 37:9-18: For evildoers will be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD, they will inherit the land. 10 Yet a little while and the wicked man will be no more; and you will look carefully for his place and he will not be there. 11 But the humble will inherit the land and will delight themselves in abundant prosperity. 12 The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes at him with his teeth. 13 The Lord laughs at him, for He sees his day is coming. 14 The wicked have drawn the sword and bent their bow to cast down the afflicted and the needy, to slay those who are upright in conduct. 15 Their sword will enter their own heart, and their bows will be broken. 16 Better is the little of the righteous than the abundance of many wicked. 17 For the arms of the wicked will be broken, but the LORD sustains the righteous. 18 The LORD knows the days of the blameless, and their inheritance will be forever.*

*Matthew 7:11: "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!"*

*Luke 11:13: "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"*

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*John 3:27: John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven.*

*1 Corinthians 4:7: For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?*

*James 1:17: Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.*

*Thomas Ken, 1674. The Doxology is actually the last verse of much longer hymn, Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun.*

*Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

*Ruth 2:21-23 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 Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his maids, so that others do not 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. NASU*

Boaz had provided for Ruth and Naomi and encouraged Ruth to continue with his workers until the harvest was finished, Naomi instructed Ruth to take Boaz up on his offer – for their good and Ruth's safety. Ruth followed the instruction of Naomi. Naomi recognized the hand of God and His blessing in all that had befallen Ruth. Her encounter with Boaz was not coincidental but rather the providence of God, providing for two of His children.

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In all three individuals in this story, we witness God blessing those who value others more highly than themselves. Naomi, due to the lack of opportunity in Israel, encouraged her daughters-in-law to turn back at great personal cost. Ruth demonstrated selflessness by assisting, supporting, and caring for her mother-in-law. Additionally, we will see Boaz being blessed with a wife through his generosity. *Psalms 37:23-26, 119:12-17; Proverbs 6:6-8, 18:21-22; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15*

*Psalms 37:23-26: The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the LORD upholds him with His hand. 25 I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread. 26 He is ever merciful, and lends; and his descendants are blessed.*

*Psalms 119:12-17: Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes! 13 With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth. 14 I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches. 15 I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. 16 I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word. 17 Deal bountifully with Your servant, that I may live and keep Your word.*

*Proverbs 6:6-15: Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, 7 which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, 8 provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest. 9 How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep – 11 so shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, and your need like an armed man. 12 A worthless person, a wicked man, walks with a perverse mouth; 13 he winks with his eyes, he shuffles his feet, he points with his fingers; 14 perversity is in his heart, he devises evil continually, he sows discord. 15 Therefore his calamity shall come suddenly; suddenly he shall be broken without remedy.*

*Proverbs 18:21-22: Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit. 22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD.*

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*2 Corintians 9:6-15: But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. 9 As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." 10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, 11 while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. 12 For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, 13 while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, 14 and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. 15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!*