

# Ruth

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## ***Boaz Protects Ruth***

*Ruth 2:8-10: 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." 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?" NASU*

Boaz a type or picture of Christ - does more than the Law required; he immediately became a care giver/provider for Ruth. Boaz encouraged Ruth to continue to gather in his fields and ensured Ruth was able to gather the food she needed. Boaz also protected her – he instructed his workers not to touch her (by implications they would watch over her). Allowing her to drink his workers water supply is another example of Boaz going beyond the requirements of the Law. ***Matthew 10:40-42; Galatians 6:2-4, 7-10***

***Matthew 10:40-42: "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. 41 "He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. 42 "And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward."***

***Galatians 6:2-4: Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. 4 But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another.***

***Galatians 6:7-10: Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. 10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.***

Again, Ruth's response to the generosity of Boaz reveals more of her character, she is humble; she did not feel she deserved the grace Boaz was extending to her. She did not – Boaz, a type of Christ, made his decision based on his desire to bless Ruth – for his own purposes. ***Romans 5:8, 12:9-16; Philippians 2:3-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17***

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*Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

*Romans 12:9-16: Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, 13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.*

*Philippians 2:3-6: Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped*

*2 Thessalonians 2:16-17: Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, 17 comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.*

*Ruth 2:11-14: Boaz replied 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.” 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.” 14 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. NASU*

Earlier, we mentioned that Ruth's reputation had preceded her. Boaz's response to Ruth in verse 11 acknowledged Ruth's character and validated the earlier statement. Everyone in the village was talking about Ruth's good works, which they had witnessed. She was dedicated to caring for Naomi. Boaz said to Ruth, he knew that she had, “left your father and your mother and the land of your birth and the land of your birth”, taking a gigantic step of faith to come to “a people that you did not previously know”. **Luke 14:26-27**

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***Luke 14:26-27: "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. 27 "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.***

Boaz can be seen as a type or picture of Christ, the one who encouraged, protected, and provided for Ruth. However, Boaz knew he could not fully bless or compensate Ruth for her faithfulness; he prayed for Ruth that God would provide her with a full reward for her generosity and compassion. Ruth was being rewarded for all she had given without thought of compensation. ***Matthew 6:3-4, 6, 10:42; Luke 6:35, 37-38; Galatians 6:9-10; Colossians 3:23-24***

***Matthew 6:3-4: "But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.***

***Matthew 6:6: But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.***

***Matthew 10:42: "And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward."***

***Luke 6:35, 37-38: "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. ... 37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned. 38 "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure -- pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."***

***Galatians 6:9-10: Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. 10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.***

***Colossians 3:23-24: Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.***

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In actuality, what Ruth was doing for Naomi, she was doing unto the Lord. She represented God to Naomi on earth, essentially God was ministering to Naomi through Ruth. In New Testament terms, we could say that both Ruth and Boaz served as earthly representations of Christ, with Ruth being a representation to Naomi, and Boaz being a representation to Ruth. This parallels the role of believers today as part of the body of Christ when we care for one another, we make Christ known in a physical earthly manner. ***Romans 10:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:13-14, 27***

***Romans 10:6-8: But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, "WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?" (that is, to bring Christ down), 7 or "WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)." 8 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, in your mouth and in your heart" -- that is, the word of faith which we are preaching***

***1 Corinthians 12:13-14, 27: For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. ... 27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.***

The basis of Boaz's prayer for Ruth came from her placing her trust in *the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge*. In her profession of faith in verse 1:16: *Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God*. Ruth had found a place of refuge in Israel – under the protective watch of Boaz (as the Lord does for those who belong to Him). Ruth, a foreigner, had placed herself under the protection of God. In trusting in the God of Israel, all the promises of God fully applied to her. ***Genesis 15:1; Matthew 23:37; 1 Corinthians 3:8-9, 14-15; 2 Corinthians 1:20-22; Hebrews 8:6; 2 Peter 1:3-4***

***Genesis 15:1: After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; your reward shall be very great."***

***Matthew 23:37: "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.***

***1 Corinthians 3:8-9: Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.***

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*1 Corinthians 3:14-15: If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. 15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.*

*2 Corinthians 1:20-22: For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us. 21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, 22 who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.*

*Hebrews 8:6: But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.*

*2 Peter 1:3-4: seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.*

At every step of this story, Ruth's character shines forth; she is humble and acknowledges that she is not deserving of the grace she is receiving from Boaz. Just as in Christ, there is no boasting, as there is nothing in us worthy of the love, mercy, and grace that God has provided us. Boaz continues to demonstrate Christ like character in his care for Ruth, inviting her to dinner and ensuring she has plenty to eat. *Proverbs 11:24-26; Isaiah 58:6-7; Luke 14:12-14*

*Proverbs 11:24-26: There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. 25 The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself. 26 The people will curse him who withholds grain, but blessing will be on the head of him who sells it.*

*Isaiah 58:6-7: "Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? 7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh?"*

*Luke 14:12-14: Then He also said to him who invited Him, "When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. 13 But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. 14 And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."*

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*Romans 3:22-24, 27: even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus ... 27 Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith.*

*Ruth 2:15-16: When she rose to glean, Boaz commanded his servants, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not insult her. 16 "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." NASU*

Ruth had found favor in the eyes of Boaz; gleaners could only glean only after the works had bound the sheaves. Boaz went well beyond the requirements of the Law. Boaz instructed his workers to not stop Ruth from taking whatever she wanted. Boaz was ensuring Ruth (and Naomi) were blessed and would have more than enough. *Leviticus 19:9-10, 23:22; Luke 6:35-38*

*Leviticus 19:9-10: 'When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10 And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the LORD your God.*

*Leviticus 23:22: 'When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field when you reap, nor shall you gather any gleanings from your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am the LORD your God.' "*

*Ephesians 3:20-21: Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,*

*Philippians 4:18-20: Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. 19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*