

Ruth 2.

Recap ch 1. Jewish family reject help from their own family and abandoned ship when times are hard.

All the men die and Naomi returns with her daughters-in-law, one of whom quits and goes home. The other, Ruth, commits herself to Naomi, her God and her people.

Ch 2 God's generosity to Ruth will have a knock on effect on Naomi who now blames him for everything.

Meet Boaz, the hero of the piece. A man of faith, who prospered during the famine. A man of standing and substance. Son of Rahab of Joshua days. Cares for the whosoever whether poor or foreign.

Ruth goes out trusting in the generosity of someone to allow her to glean in their field. Lev 19:9-10 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....you shall leave them for the poor and needy.

Pride is an obstacle to receiving from God. Ruth is not too proud to ask for help. She does not demand her rights according to law. She is humble. Only by grace can we enter, only by grace can we stand

Coincidentally, Ruth comes to Boaz's field.

Coincidentally, Boaz happens to arrive at the right moment

God's timing is perfect. He is in complete control.

He wants us and loves us and places stepping stones in our path that lead to him

Estate Manager sees her heart and potential, not focussing on her poverty, foreignness, the differences, that she is historically an enemy of Israel and from an idolatrous background.

Refugee crisis - maybe God has brought them to us for their betterment. That we can show them his acceptance and generosity in His Name.

Boaz extends the hand of friendship. Don't go to another field. Wants to be the one to pour blessings on her. Keep with the women. We are to mentor those younger in the faith by studying the Word ourselves, obeying it and passing it on. Boaz provides water to quench her thirst. Jesus to the woman at the well = refreshment and renewal are at his hand if we stay in his field.

Ruth is awed. Boaz has singled her out, done more than law required, made her feel valued (Naomi brushed her off, she's a widow. Feelings of being unloved?) Who am I that you have done this thing for me (David in 2 Sam 7:18) Majesty of creation vs tv news of wickedness within man. ; Yet God love us and values us. Nothing is hidden from him. Nothing is hidden from Boaz, and he wants Naomi too.

Making a choice for God is a quality decision and a turning point. Ruth. Naomi. Me. You.

Boaz welcomes Ruth into the family and she is conscious of the joy of her salvation.

First date - a picnic in the field. Bread and wine of friendship and fellowship. She is satisfied. More than satisfied. God is not God of just enough, but of more than enough.

Back to work. More favour. Gleaning in whole field, not just corners, workers to deliberately put stalks in her way, she collects through the afternoon, threshes it and has 4 gallons of flour. Salvation is just the beginning. Work of bringing in the sheaves is motivated by God's grace towards us.

We can work hard for stuff, but unless it is God's stuff, it's just stuff.

Ruth blesses Naomi with the overflow. Naomi's interest is piqued.

We have been given gifts of many kinds, including gifts of the Spirit, to go about doing good, so people will have interest aroused, come and get healed and saved. I know a man who can deal with our grief, our weakness, our infirmities, our sicknesses, who will take us under his wing. I've met a man who can...

Hope springs up in Naomi's heart. God cares after all. People need to know God cares.

Ruth stays till end of wheat harvest - not just barley harvest.

God has more for us than this though.

Subtext

God is specific about time.....In the time of the Judges.....Beginning of the barley harvest.....end of the wheat harvest. Why?

Ruth is a miniBible

Jews rejected Jesus and for next 2000 years have seemed to be abandoned by God

Barley stands for gentiles. Ruth stands for church. Naomi stands for Jews

.Jesus rose on Feast of First Fruits (beginning of barley harvest)

Wheat harvest ends at Feast of Ingathering, also known as Feast of Tabernacles (God dwells with us)

Ruth 2 speaks of church age

Gods' plan as explained in Romans is that Jews set aside for a while in order that gentiles can be brought in. They make the Jews jealous, and they recognize Jesus as their Messiah and Lord of all.

Therefore, as Ruth made her commitment to Naomi, was also to Naomis God and Naomi's people, so the church's commitment is not only to Israel's God, but Israel's people too until he comes to rule and reign.

Moral of the story is more bang for your buck if you throw in your lot with Jesus