

Ruth

(3) Ruth's Faith with Works

Ruth 2:1-3

Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, from the clan of Elimelech, a man of standing, whose name was Boaz. 2 And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor."

Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter." 3 So she went out and began to glean in the fields behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she found herself working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelech. NIV

Ruth's faith in action...2:1-4

What is the 'Jewish' message behind 2:1? Lev.25:23-55, especially **25:23-28**

Elimelech had sold his land. But his sons (dead) or next kinsman could redeem it.

What was of special interest about this man Boaz? 2:1, 3b

He was a relative (kinsman) of Elimelech, likely wealthy. A possible kinsman redeemer.

What had the Lord declared about the 'year of jubilee'? Lev.25:8-17

After 7 Sabbath years (7 yrs), i.e. 7x7=49 yrs, the 50th yr = jubilee. Everything reverts!

What does Ruth's request in 2:2 indicate about her faith? Deut.24:19-22; Lev.19:9-10, 23:22

God's provision for the poor/stranger was the remainder of the harvest. She trusted Him.

What is equally evident about Naomi from her response? 2:2b

Ok, whatever! No guidance, no warnings, and no assistance! And very little faith.

What 'providentially' happens to Ruth as she steps out in faith? 2:3 Gen.24:27; James 2:18-26

She 'happens' to end up gleaning in Boaz's field. God works for those of faith!

What do we learn of this man Boaz from 2:1, 4? Compare with 1:1

Boaz is a Godly man. The Lord blessed him through the famine. Now wealthy, respected.

Boaz takes note of Ruth...2:5-10

What does Boaz learn about Ruth from his foreman? 2:5-7 (note young woman, see 2:10)

Moabitess who returned w/Naomi. Asked permission to glean. Hard worker, diligent.

What does Boaz then say to Ruth? 2:8-9

Stay in my field w/servant girls. You're safe here. You can drink from jars men have!

And what is the humble response from Ruth? 2:10

Why have I found such favor (grace) with you? I'm a foreigner! (not Jewish).

How does this picture the 'grace in which we stand' (Rom.5:2)? Eph.2:11-22

We, Gentile believers, foreigners to Israel, without hope, are brought to Him by grace!

What do we learn from Ruth's response? Eph.5:20; Phil.4:6; Col.1:12, 3:16, 4:2; Heb.13:15

To be humble in the face of Grace! Thankful, not trying to proclaim how "we did it"!