

Ruth Chapter 2:1-13

1. Whose idea was it to glean (gather) grain in the fields?
2. What is Ruth in danger of as she ventures out to find food? What does this tell you about her character? How is Ruth showing Hesed love?
3. v. 3-7 How does the writer's mention that "As it turned out...." and "Just then...." affect you as a reader? What is the writer trying to tell us here? Do you believe in chance?

Historical Background: The Hebrew world had no conception of chance because God was in control of everything. One commentator said: "The reference to blind chance is a brilliant device that makes for good storytelling...The writer did not believe in luck but rather used this expression to get the reader thinking about the providential activity of God..." A Loving Life Interactive Bible Study p. 54, Paul E. Miller

4. v. 4 Boaz arrives
How does Boaz greet his workers? Does this tell us anything about his character? Boaz then inquires about Ruth – What does he ask about Ruth (v. 5)? What is the significance of this? **Culturally he is asking what clan is this woman a part of? Who is the man who protects her and provides for her? He learns she is very vulnerable.** What do we learn about Ruth's character from the foreman's response?
5. How does Boaz respond to the information he has learned? What is the significance of calling her daughter? See the table on Social Hierarchy. **Elevating her, including her, treating her with respect**

Historical Background – Ancient Hebrew Social Hierarchy

1. King or Judge of Israel
2. Tribal Leader (Judah)
3. Clan Leader (Bethlehem)
4. Clan-subgroup leader * **Boaz's Possible Status**
5. Older father
6. Father (**Elimelech**)
7. Eldest Son
8. Son
9. Wife (**Naomi**)
10. Daughter
11. Male servant
12. Female servant
13. Female servant lower class
14. Resident alien
15. Male foreigner
16. Female foreigner * **Ruth's status**

6. List the specific things Boaz does for Ruth. What does this mean for Ruth?
Placing Ruth under his protection, she is no longer alone – she now has a community

7. What does this reveal to us about Boaz's character? Below lists the requirements of the law, yet Boaz goes about and beyond – what can we learn from him?

Historical Background: Gleaning for the Poor

The Law of Moses told landowners to leave grain for the poor by...

a. Not going through the fields a second time

Leviticus 19:10 “And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes from your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and the sojourner.

Deuteronomy 24:19-22 “When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow...”

b. “You shall not reap your field right up to its edge” (Leviticus 19:9, 23:22)

8. What is Ruth's reaction to Boaz?

9. v. 11-12 How does Boaz answer Ruth's question (v. 10)? What motivates Boaz's kindness to Ruth? What are his feelings toward Ruth? What effect has Ruth's love to Naomi had on the whole town?

10. Boaz responds by praying a blessing over her. Picture the image Boaz uses – “under whose wings you have come to take refuge” Who is Ruth's refuge? Who is God using in Bethlehem to provide protection and refuge for Ruth?

Application:

How have you seen God use “coincidences” in your life? Can you share an example of something that “just happened”?

Ruth finds refuge in God and he uses his people to love and take care of her Have you experienced God as your refuge? If not, why do you think that is?

How does Boaz's character most challenge your idea of manhood? Leadership?

Boaz enters Ruth's world by having his eyes open to the needs around him. He takes notice of her (he takes a look into her world), he shows compassion toward her and then he acts. How are you doing at this? How do you fall short?