



## **LESSON NINE**

### **Ruth's Exercising of Her Right and Seeking for Her Rest**

Scripture Reading:

#### **Ruth 2**

- 2:1** Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a man of great wealth, from Elimelech's family; and his name was Boaz.
- 2:2** And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I find favor. And she said to her, Go, my daughter.
- 2:3** So she went. And she came and gleaned in the field after the reapers; and she happened to glean in a portion of the field belonging to Boaz, who was from Elimelech's family.
- 2:4** And just then Boaz came from Bethlehem and said to the reapers, Jehovah be with you. And they said to him, Jehovah bless you.
- 2:5** And Boaz said to his young man who was set over the reapers, Whose young woman is that?
- 2:6** And the young man who was set over the reapers answered and said, She is the young Moabite woman who returned with Naomi from the country of Moab;
- 2:7** And she said, Let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves. So she has come and continued since morning until now, and she has sat in the house for only a little while.
- 2:8** And Boaz said to Ruth, Listen, my daughter. Do not go to glean in another field, and also do not pass from here but stay close to my young women.
- 2:9** Keep your eyes on the field that they reap; follow after them. I have charged my young men not to touch you. And when you are thirsty, you shall go to the vessels and drink of what the young men have drawn.
- 2:10** And she fell upon her face and bowed herself to the ground, and she said to him, Why have I found favor in your sight that you regard me, though I am a foreigner?
- 2:11** And Boaz answered and said to her, All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, as well as how you left your father and mother and the land of your birth, and came to a people whom you did not know before.
- 2:12** May Jehovah recompense your work, and may you have a full reward from Jehovah the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.
- 2:13** And she said, Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me and have spoken kindly to your servant girl, though I am not like even one of your servant girls.
- 2:14** And Boaz said to her at mealtime, Come here and eat some food; and dip your morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers, and he extended some parched grain to her. And she ate and was satisfied, and she had some left.
- 2:15** And when she rose up to glean, Boaz charged his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her.
- 2:16** And also pull out some from the bundles for her, and leave it for her to glean; and do not rebuke her.
- 2:17** So she gleaned in the field until evening. And she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.
- 2:18** And she took it up and went into the city. And her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. Ruth also brought out and gave to her what she had left after she had been earlier satisfied.
- 2:19** And her mother-in-law said to her, Where did you glean today, and where did you work? Blessed be he who paid such attention to you. And she told her mother-in-law whom she had worked with and said, The name of the man whom I worked with today is Boaz.
- 2:20** And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, Blessed be he of Jehovah, whose lovingkindness has not failed for the living and for the dead. And Naomi said to her, The man is close to us; he is one of our kinsmen.

- 2:21** And Ruth the Moabitess said, He also said to me, You shall stay close by my young men who are with me until they have completed the whole harvest that I have.
- 2:22** And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, so that others do not meet you in any other field.
- 2:23** So she stayed close to Boaz's young women and gleaned until the end of the barley harvest and the wheat harvest, and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

### **Ruth 3**

- 3:1** And Naomi, her mother-in-law, said to her, My daughter, I must seek some resting place for you, that it may go well with you.
- 3:2** And now is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you have been? Behold, he is winnowing the barley tonight at the threshing floor.
- 3:3** Wash yourself therefore, and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes; and go down to the threshing floor. But do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.
- 3:4** And when he lies down, notice the place where he lies, and go and uncover his feet, and lie down. And he will tell you what you should do.
- 3:5** And she said to her, All that you say, I will do.
- 3:6** And she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law had charged her.
- 3:7** And Boaz ate and drank, and his heart was merry. And he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. And she came in secretly and uncovered his feet and lay down.
- 3:8** Then at midnight the man was startled; and he turned over, and a woman was there, lying at his feet.
- 3:9** And he said, Who are you? And she said, I am Ruth, your female servant. Spread your cloak over your female servant, for you are a kinsman.
- 3:10** And he said, Blessed be you of Jehovah, my daughter. You have shown your latter kindness to be better than your first by not going after the choice young men, whether poor or rich.
- 3:11** And now, my daughter, do not fear. All that you say, I will do for you; for all the assembly of my people know that you are a worthy woman.
- 3:12** And now it is true that I am a kinsman, yet there is a kinsman closer than I.
- 3:13** Stay for the night; and in the morning if he will do the kinsman's duty, fine; let him do it. But if he is not willing to do the kinsman's duty for you, I will do it for you, as Jehovah lives. Lie down until morning.
- 3:14** And she lay at his feet until morning, then rose up before one could recognize another; for he said, Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor.
- 3:15** And he said, Bring the cloak that is on you, and hold it open. And she held it open, and he measured out six measures of barley and laid it on her. And he went into the city.
- 3:16** And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, How are you, my daughter? And she told her all that the man had done for her.
- 3:17** And she said, These six measures of barley he gave me, for he said, Do not go to your mother-in-law empty-handed.
- 3:18** And she said, Stay here, my daughter, until you know how the matter will fall; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter today.

## **QUESTIONS:**

### **Section 1:**

1. How do we know God's lovingkindness and His greatness and fineness in His commandment concerning the reaping of the harvest?
2. What does the book of Ruth portray in relation to sinners? How does it apply to us today?

### **Section 2:**

1. What should we do after believing in Christ?
2. How did Ruth gain her rest? How does it relate to us today?
3. What was Naomi's role in chapter 3 and what is the significance of her role?

### **Section 3:**

1. How did Naomi instruct Ruth and what was Ruth's response?
2. How can we see what type of person Boaz was in this chapter?

## **RUTH'S EXERCISING OF HER RIGHT**

After Ruth's husband died, she had two choices: remain in Moab or go with Naomi to be a foreigner in Israel. Ruth chose to go to the land of Israel because she probably had heard a great deal concerning God, God's promise, and the good land. She had heard the good news sufficiently for her to make a wonderful choice. After arriving in the land of Israel with Naomi, Ruth exercised her right. This matter is covered in chapter two.

### **I. GOD'S COMMANDMENT TO ISRAEL THAT TAKES CARE OF THE NEEDY ONES AMONG HIS ELECT CONCERNING THE REAPING OF THEIR HARVEST**

God's commandment concerning the reaping of the harvest was that Jehovah would bless the children of Israel if they left the corners of their fields and the gleanings for the poor, the sojourners, the orphans, and the widows. Concerning this, Leviticus 23:22 says, "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not completely reap the corners of your field, neither shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and for the alien." A similar word is found in Leviticus 19:9-10. Deuteronomy 24:19 says, "When you reap your harvest in your field and you forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not turn back to gather it; it shall be for the sojourner, the orphan, and the widow, in order that Jehovah your God may bless you in all your undertakings." This shows not only the lovingkindness of God and how great, fine, and detailed He is, but shows also the rich produce of the good land.

God wanted to bless the harvest of the Israelites in the good land, but this blessing had a condition—that something would be left for the poor. The people would not be allowed to reap completely the corners of their field. However, in the ordinance of the law given by God through Moses regarding reaping, the size of the corners of the field was not specified. The size depended on the landlord's faith in Jehovah. The larger one's faith in Jehovah was, the larger the corners of the field would be. I believe that it was the practice of Boaz to obey this ordinance. He must have had great faith in Jehovah. Under God's sovereignty this ordinance seems to have been written for one person—Ruth.

## **II. NAOMI RETURNING TO BETHLEHEM WITH HER DAUGHTER-IN-LAW RUTH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE BARLEY HARVEST**

Naomi returned to Bethlehem with her daughter-in-law Ruth at the beginning of the barley harvest (Ruth 1:22b). Barley, which ripens earlier than other grains, typifies the resurrected Christ (John 6:9-10, 56-58).

### **III. NAOMI HAVING A RELATIVE OF HER HUSBAND'S, A MAN OF GREAT WEALTH, BY THE NAME OF BOAZ**

"Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a man of great wealth, from Elimelech's family; and his name was Boaz" (Ruth 2:1). God is sovereign, and in His sovereignty He brought Ruth from Moab to the city of Bethlehem. Before she arrived there, He had prepared a rich, generous man by the name of Boaz.

### **IV. RUTH GAINING NAOMI'S PERMISSION TO GO GLEANING**

Ruth gained Naomi's permission to go gleaning (vv. 2-3). Ruth asked Naomi to let her go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight Ruth had found favor. Naomi told Ruth to go, and she went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, happening to glean in a portion of the field belonging to Boaz.

### **V. BOAZ BECOMING ACQUAINTED WITH RUTH**

Boaz eventually became acquainted with Ruth (vv. 4-7). He came from Bethlehem and said to the reapers, "Jehovah be with you," and they said to him, "Jehovah bless you" (v. 4). When Boaz asked the young man who was set over the reapers concerning Ruth, the young man told him that she was the young Moabite woman who had returned with Naomi from the country of Moab and who had asked to glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves. His word to Boaz regarding Ruth indicates that he was happy with her, considering her a woman of fidelity and virtue.

### **VI. BOAZ'S WORD OF GRACE TO RUTH**

In verses 8 through 13 we have Boaz's word of grace to Ruth. He said to her, "Do not go to glean

in another field, and also do not pass from here but stay close to my young women. Keep your eyes on the field that they reap; follow after them. I have charged my young men not to touch you. And when you are thirsty, you shall go to the vessels and drink of what the young men have drawn” (vv. 8-9). When Ruth heard these words, she fell upon her face, bowed herself to the ground, and asked Boaz, “Why have I found favor in your sight that you regard me, though I am a foreigner?” (v.10). Boaz replied that all that she had done for her mother-in-law since the death of her husband Elimelech had been made known to him. He also had learned how she had left her father and mother and the land of her birth and had come to a people whom she had not known before. Then he said to her, “May Jehovah recompense your work, and may you have a full reward from Jehovah, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge” (v. 12). In response, Ruth asked that she would find favor in his sight, for he had comforted her and had spoken kindly to her (v. 13).

#### **VII. BOAZ’S GENEROSITY TOWARD RUTH**

Boaz not only spoke kindly to Ruth but also showed generosity to her (vv. 14-16). At mealtime Boaz told her to eat some food, extending some parched grain to her, and she ate and was satisfied. When she rose up to glean, Boaz charged his young men to let her glean among the standing grain and not to rebuke her. Then he went on to say to them, “Also pull out some from the bundles for her, and leave it for her to glean; and do not rebuke her” (v. 16).

#### **VIII. RUTH TELLING THE STORY TO NAOMI**

Upon returning from the field, Ruth told the story of her experience with Boaz to Naomi, her mother-in-law (vv. 17-21). When Ruth told Naomi that she had gleaned in the field of Boaz, Naomi said to her, “Blessed be he of Jehovah, whose lovingkindness has not failed for the living and for the dead” (v. 20a). Then Naomi told Ruth that the man was close to them, one of their kinsmen (v. 20b).

#### **IX. NAOMI CHARGING RUTH**

In verse 22 Naomi charged Ruth, saying, “It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, so that others do not meet you in

any other field.” As we will see when we come to chapter three, what was on Naomi’s heart was not only that Ruth would partake of Boaz’s riches and be satisfied, but also that she would gain Boaz himself as her husband and bring forth a son for the name of Elimelech.

#### **X. RUTH STAYING CLOSE TO BOAZ’S YOUNG WOMEN**

Ruth stayed close to Boaz’s young women and gleaned until the end of the barley harvest and the wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law (v. 23).

#### **XI. RUTH EXERCISING HER RIGHT TO PARTAKE OF THE RICH PRODUCE OF THE INHERITANCE OF GOD’S ELECT**

In all this Ruth, as one who had returned to God from her heathen background, exercised her right to partake of the rich produce of the inheritance of God’s elect. Ruth, a Moabitess, had come to the good land as a sojourner. According to her threefold status as a sojourner, a poor one, and a widow, she exercised her right to glean the harvest. Although she was poor, she never became a beggar. Her gleaning was not her begging; it was her right.

The book of Ruth portrays the way, the position, the qualification, and the right of sinners to participate in Christ and to enjoy Christ. According to God’s ordination, we have been qualified and positioned to claim our right to enjoy Christ. This means that today we do not need to beg God to save us. We can go to God to claim His salvation for ourselves. We have the position, the qualification, and the right to claim salvation from God. This is the highest standard of receiving the gospel.

#### **XII. TYPES IMPLIED IN THIS AROMATIC STORY**

As a narration, the book of Ruth is lovely, touching, convincing, and subduing. In the aromatic story in chapter two, four types are implied.

##### **A. Boaz, Rich in Wealth**

Boaz, rich in wealth (2:1), typifies Christ, who is rich in the divine grace (2 Cor. 12:9).

## **B. The Field of the God-promised Good Land**

The field of the God-promised good land (Ruth 2:2-3) typifies the all-inclusive Christ, who is the source of all the spiritual and divine products for the life supply to God's elect (Phil. 1:19b).

## **C. Barley and Wheat**

Barley and wheat (Ruth 2:23) typify Christ as the material for making food for both God and His people (Lev. 2; John 6:9, 33, 35).

## **D. Ruth, a Moabitess, a Heathen Sinner**

Ruth, a Moabitess (Deut. 23:3), a heathen sinner, alienated from God's promises (Eph. 2:12), given the right to partake of the gleaning of the harvest of God's elect typifies the "Gentile dogs" who are privileged to partake of the crumbs under the table of the portion of God's elect children (Col. 1:12; Matt. 15:25-28).

----- [SECTION 2] -----

## **RUTH'S SEEKING FOR HER REST**

Chapter one shows Ruth's choosing, chapter two shows Ruth's exercising of her right, and chapter three shows Ruth's seeking for her rest. We need to enjoy Christ to such an extent that we have rest. In order to have rest, we surely need a home. No place can give us as much rest as our home. In chapter three Naomi proposed and even pushed to gain a home for Ruth.

The steps taken by Ruth correspond to our spiritual experience. Before we were saved, we all had our own taste and choice. Under the Lord's sovereign arrangement, we heard the gospel and made a resolution to become a believer of Christ. Our choice was to believe in Christ. By believing in the Lord Jesus, we were organically joined to Him. Now He is in us and we are in Him. With this intimate, organic union, we must begin to pursue Christ in order to gain, possess, experience, and enjoy Him. This is typified by Ruth's exercising of her right to gain and possess the produce of the good land. Just as Ruth had the right to enjoy the produce of the good land after coming into the land, so we have the right to enjoy Christ as our good land after believing in Him.

It is a tragedy that Christianity, both Catholicism and Protestantism, has not seen this matter of

enjoying Christ. The Lord Jesus said, "He who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me" (John 6:57). Our Savior can be eaten; He is our heavenly food and manna. According to Revelation 2, whoever overcomes may eat of Christ as the tree of life and as the hidden manna (vv. 7, 17). The Bible reveals that Christ is not only our food but also our drink, clothing, and breath. He is our daily necessities. Every day we need to enjoy Him. We must be like Ruth and exercise our right to enjoy Christ. Every morning we should "glean" from the "field" of the Bible.

However, after our gleaning we still need a home so that we can have a settled rest. This kind of rest can come only through marriage. In Ruth 3:1 Naomi said to Ruth, "My daughter, I must seek some resting place for you." Naomi wanted to find a way to establish a home for Ruth. If Ruth was to have a home for her rest, she needed a husband. Naomi realized that the proper person to be Ruth's husband was Boaz, who typifies Christ.

I realize that many of us love the Lord Jesus, but have we taken Him as our Husband? Have you ever had a time with the Lord when you said, "Lord, You are my Husband"? Even though you are saved and you love the Lord, you will not have a home for your rest until you marry the Lord Jesus, taking Him as your Husband.

In these messages on Joshua, Judges, and Ruth, the Lord has given us a clear view of how we should take Christ as our unique Husband. After the people of Israel entered the good land under Joshua, there was a history of miserable chaos because Israel was not faithful. She left God as her Husband to go to many husbands, to many idols. In this modern age there are many idols, such as entertainment, sports, and shopping, which cause Christians to be unfaithful. It seems as if they have never been married to Christ, that they have never actually taken Him as their Husband. As a consequence, they are roaming, wandering from place to place with no rest.

The place to find our Husband is in our home, the church. Christ is the Husband in the church. To have a husband is not sufficient. We must also have a home. Without a home we have no rest. If we have Christ, enjoy Christ, and experience Christ, yet we do not have the church, we are still homeless. Therefore, we must stress not only Christ as our Husband but also the

church as our home. Christ as our Husband and the church as our home are a complete unit for us to have a proper and adequate rest.

Ruth was enjoying her life with Naomi, but Naomi was clear that Ruth needed to be married to Boaz. Although according to God's law the Jews and the Moabites were to be separated, in His sovereignty God had a way to bring Ruth, a Moabitess, and Boaz together. By the time of chapter three, Ruth and Boaz had already met in the field where Ruth was gleaning, and they were prepared, qualified, and ready to be married. I believe that Boaz loved Ruth and that she loved him. But this love was entirely inward, with no outward expression. Since this was the situation, there was the need for Naomi, as the person in the middle, to push Ruth and Boaz to get married.

My burden today is like Naomi's. I am seeking a resting place for you, and the only way for you to have rest is to take Christ as your Husband. Thus, I am here as a person in the middle to push you to marry Christ. I am quite concerned that you have never known Christ as your Husband and that you have not yet found a home for your rest. You may know Christ as your Redeemer, Savior, Master, and Lord. You may even know that He is your food, drink, breath, and clothing. But do you know Him as your Husband? Perhaps you glean daily in His field and recognize Him as the Landlord. You need to do more than to glean in His field—you need to take Him as your Husband. My burden, therefore, is to push all of us to marry Christ. I am pushing us to marry Christ so that we can build up a home and enjoy Him in this home, which is the church.

Nothing is more intimate than marriage. Taking Christ as our Husband is a most intimate matter. If we marry Christ, taking Him as our Husband, our life will be changed. We will realize that we must have a wife's fidelity, and we will learn how to enjoy Christ as our life, walking and behaving in oneness with Him. Then we will become those who gain Christ and enjoy Christ, loving Him, staying at home with Him, and living with Him at home, in the church. If we do this, we will truly know the church life in the Lord's recovery.

-----[SECTION 3]-----

Now that we have seen the intrinsic significance of chapter three of Ruth, let us consider this chapter in more detail.

## **I. PROMOTED BY HER MOTHER-IN-LAW**

In 3:1-5 we see that Ruth's seeking for her rest was promoted by her mother-in-law Naomi.

### **A. To Seek Some Resting Place for Ruth**

In verse 1 Naomi said to Ruth, "My daughter, I must seek some resting place for you, that it may go well with you."

### **B. Instructing Ruth What to Do**

Naomi instructed Ruth what to do (vv. 2-4). She told Ruth to wash herself, anoint herself, put on her best clothes, and go down to the threshing floor where Boaz, their relative, was winnowing the barley. She further instructed Ruth not to make herself known to the man until he had finished eating and drinking. Then Naomi told her to notice the place where he lies down and go there, uncover his feet, and lie down. Naomi concluded by telling her that Boaz would tell her what she should do.

### **C. Ruth's Obedience**

Ruth was obedient to her mother-in-law, saying to her, "All that you say, I will do" (v. 5).

## **II. CARRIED OUT BY RUTH**

### **A. According to Her Mother-in-law's Charge**

Ruth went down to the threshing floor and did all that her mother-in-law had charged her (v. 6).

### **B. Approaching Boaz Based upon the God-ordained Way**

Verses 7 through 9 give an account of how Ruth approached Boaz. Her approaching him was based upon the God-ordained way (4:5; Lev. 25:25; Deut. 25:5-10).

## **III. ACCEPTED BY BOAZ**

In Ruth 3:10-15 we see that Ruth was accepted by Boaz.

### **A. Boaz's Promise**

When Ruth identified herself and asked Boaz to spread his cloak over her, he said, "Blessed be you of Jehovah, my daughter. You have shown your latter kindness to be better than your first by not going after the choice young men, whether poor or rich" (v. 10). Then he promised to do all that she had said. He continued by explaining that although he was a kinsman, there was a kinsman closer than he. Boaz went on to say that if that other kinsman was not willing to do the kinsman's duty for Ruth, then he would do it for her.

### **B. Boaz's Generous Care**

In verses 14 and 15 we see Boaz's generous care for Ruth.

## **IV. RUTH'S REPORT TO HER MOTHER-IN-LAW**

According to verses 16 through 18 Ruth gave a report to her mother-in-law.

### **A. The Good News**

Ruth reported the good news concerning all that Boaz had done for her. In particular, she spoke of the six measures of barley that he had given to her.

### **B. The Mother-in-law's Faith**

Verse 18 reveals the mother-in-law's faith. Naomi had the faith that Boaz would not rest until he had sought rest for Ruth.

## **V. FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE GENEALOGY TO BRING IN CHRIST**

If we consider Matthew 1:5-6 and 16, we will see that Ruth's seeking for her rest was actually for the continuation of the genealogy to bring in Christ.

## **VI. THE EVALUATION OF BOAZ**

Chapter three of Ruth presents a high evaluation of Boaz. This chapter indicates that he was high in morality (vv. 8-11), that he was pure in conduct (v. 14), that he was wise in decision (vv. 12-13), and that he was faithful in keeping God's ordination (Lev. 25:25; Deut. 25:5-10).

### **B. Ruth's Choosing to Go with Naomi**

Ruth said to Naomi, "Do not entreat me to leave you and turn away from following after you. For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you dwell, I will dwell; and your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Where you die, I will die; and there will I be buried. Jehovah do so to me, and more as well, if anything but death parts me from you" (vv. 16-17). When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she ceased speaking to her about it (v. 18).

Ruth chose the goal of participating with God's elect in the enjoyment of Christ, and she even became a top ancestor of Christ who helped bring forth Christ into mankind. This was more than just a resolution on the part of the Moabite widow; it was a goal, a choosing. Ruth chose God and His kingdom for the carrying out of God's economy concerning Christ. Hallelujah for such a goal and for such a person choosing this goal!