

## Book of Ruth – Part 6

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**Ruth 2:14** *"Now Boaz said to her at mealtime, "Come here, and eat of the bread, and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched grain to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back.*

- ❖ Again as we read this verse we can see Boaz's care and attention for Ruth;
  - ✓ He is with her at mealtime, and provides her with bread and vinegar, and parched grain.
  - ✓ As we have come to expect, the items that Boaz provides were not just what was on the menu that day. These provide us with great spiritual truth.

- ❖ **Bread**- Well, 'bread' would be pretty easy to understand, especially if we think about the One who is 'the Bread of Life'.

**John 6:32** *"Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 "For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." 35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst"..... 58 This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."*

- ✓ The Lord Jesus Christ is 'the bread from heaven', 'the bread of life', the Word of God made flesh(John 1:14)

- ❖ **Vinegar** - Why does the bread need to be dipped in vinegar? Let's begin by going to the Psalms – **Psalms 69:19** *"You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor; My adversaries are all before You. 20 Reproach has broken my heart, And I am full of heaviness; I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none; And for comforters, but I found none. 21 They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink"*

- ✓ These verses are prophetically describing our Lord at the time of His crucifixion and we can see vinegar here used in association with this time of His suffering.

**John 19:28** *"After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" 29 Now a vessel full of sour wine [Lit. vinegar] was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. 30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."*

- ✓ Jesus drinking the vinegar is a profound symbol of His having drunk the cup of suffering that was given to Him by His Father - **Mat 20:22** *But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" (Please read vs.22-28)*

**Mat 26:42** *Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done". We all know that His Father's will was done as He had to drink from that cup of suffering.*

- ✓ So what are we to learn for ourselves from Ruth dipping the bread in the vinegar?  
Watch closely - **Luke 9:23** *Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me"*
- ✓ Now add these verses from Romans 8

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**Rom 8:16** *"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together"* –

- ✓ Brethren, what are we to do if we are to be joint heirs with Him?
- ✓ Have you heard the phrase "Suffering precedes Glory"?
- ✓ The bread dipped in the vinegar is a picture of Christ's sufferings and we have to partake of the same if we are going to be a joint heir with Him.

- ❖ As Christ died in His flesh so we are to die to our flesh – These are just a few of the scriptures that we can go to and we cannot exhaust the list. Remember Day 3 in the foundational type?
  - **1Pet 2:21** *"For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:"*
  - **Rom. 6:5** *"For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection"*
  - **Col. 2:12** *"buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead."*
  - **Phil 3:10** *"that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, **11** if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."*
- ❖ Ruth picturing the faithful Christian will take the bread and dip it in the vinegar and she will eat it, picturing her choosing to die to her flesh, as will the faithful Christian take up his cross daily and follow his Lord. And we will choose to do this because we know and believe what the Lord tells us recorded in –
  - **Rom 8:18** *"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."*
  - **2Cor 4:17** *"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal [age lasting] weight of glory,"*
- ❖ Ruth sitting beside the reapers is seen following Boaz telling her about the bread and the vinegar which, as we have seen, pictures sharing in our Lord's sufferings. And as we know by now, 'the reapers are the angels' and this would take us once again to Hebrews 1:14, the angels ministering on behalf of those who will inherit salvation.
  - ✓ There is an event recorded in Matthew concerning the Lord that will help us with this –
    - **Mat 4:11** *"Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him"*  
This comes at the conclusion of the Lord's time of being tempted by the devil in the wilderness and having resisted the devil's temptations by His total reliance on what is written in the scriptures, the Lord is then ministered to by the angels.
- ❖ The implication here for us is that as we patiently endure through the trials, testing and suffering, relying totally on the scriptures, so we will also be ministered to by angels, just as we see in Hebrews 1:14.
- ❖ So having dealt with the bread and vinegar Boaz then passed Ruth parched grain. To understand the significance of the parched grain we will go back to the first time we see it as recorded in-

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- **Lev 23:14** *"You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings."*
- ✓ When we look at this verse, I hope we can see at once that parched grain cannot be eaten until 'the same day that you have brought an offering to your God'.
- ✓ So then, to follow this through, the picture is that Boaz giving Ruth parched grain to eat shows that she has already brought an offering to God.
- ✓ From what we have seen above, the offering would be in connection with eating the bread dipped in vinegar.
- ✓ The offering then is dying to self, sharing in the sufferings of Christ, just as we are admonished to do in –
  - **Rom 12:1** *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*
- ✓ **Please read Leviticus Chapter 23 and revise lesson 3.** Now the instruction concerning the parched grain is part of an overall set of instructions concerning one of the 7 Feasts given to Israel. The Feast of Firstfruits is the feast associated with the barley harvest when Ruth begins her work. It's the feast that speaks of resurrection and walking in newness of life.
- ✓ It's the same truth that we have seen before isn't it? Our offering that we bring is our dying to self, our living sacrifice, which can only be accomplished in resurrection.
- ❖ **Who could have thought that just one verse can be so rich with such enormous spiritual truth? Do you have an idea why Ruth kept back some parched grain and gave to Naomi? We will continue from here next time God willing 😊. Never look back, keep pressing on!!!!**

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### **Questions:**

1. Read Ruth 2:14 – Who provided these items for Ruth and what would this mean for us?
  - a. What does the bread symbolize for us and what scriptures did we look at?
  - b. What do we learn from the bread being dipped in vinegar and which scriptures did we look?
  - c. By going to the scriptures what are we to learn for ourselves from Ruth dipping the bread in the vinegar?
  - d. Again, by going to the scriptures, why should we embrace this suffering?
2. So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched grain to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back.
  - a. What is significant about Ruth sitting beside the reapers, which scriptures did we look at?
  - b. By looking at the scriptures why does Boaz pass Ruth the parched grain after the bread dipped in vinegar?
  - c. Which feast are the instructions in Leviticus 23:14 a part of?
  - d. What does this teach us?
  - e. What is our foundational type?