

## Ruth 2:1-23 **Boaz and Ruth – first encounter**

### Gleaning in the field of Boaz

<sup>1</sup> There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech; his name was Boaz. <sup>2</sup> So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." <sup>3</sup> Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

### Boaz discovers Ruth and inquired about her

<sup>4</sup> Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered him, "The LORD bless you!" <sup>5</sup> Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" <sup>6</sup> So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, "It is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab." <sup>7</sup> And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house."

### Boaz requested Ruth to continue gleaning with his young women

<sup>8</sup> Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women. <sup>9</sup> Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn."

### Conversation about Ruth's foreign status

<sup>10</sup> So she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?" <sup>11</sup> And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. <sup>12</sup> The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge." <sup>13</sup> Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants."

### Boaz showed Ruth favor at mealtime

<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. <sup>16</sup> Also let grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her."

### Day's end Ruth returned to Naomi her mother-in-law

<sup>17</sup> So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. <sup>18</sup> Then she took it up and went into the city, and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. So she brought out and gave to her what she had kept back after she had been satisfied.

### Naomi's advice to Ruth – Rejoicing in the Lord

19 And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz."

20 Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives." 21 Ruth the Moabitess said, "He also said to me, 'You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.' "

### Ruth obeyed Naomi

22 And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, and that people do not meet you in any other field." 23 So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

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### Facts Revealed:

#### Gleaning in the field of Boaz [Ruth 2:1-16]

- ✧ Naomi and Ruth had lost everything they owned in the land of Moab, returning to Bethlehem of Judea, the hometown of Naomi and her husband Elimelech, in desperate financial distress.
- ✧ According to Israeli law, portions of the field are left for the poor, foreigners, and widows to glean. [Leviticus 19:9-10, 23:22, Deuteronomy 24:19-22]
- ✧ Naomi and Ruth both qualified under the law, so Ruth went out to glean for food.
- ✧ Ruth alighted on a field belonging to Boaz, a near kinsman of Elimelech the dead husband of Naomi.
- ✧ Boaz returned from Bethlehem and found Ruth gleaning in his field, then he inquired of his servant who was in charge of the reapers, and was told that Ruth is the Moabite woman who had come to Israel with Naomi.
- ✧ Boaz was a man of great wealth. [Ruth 2:1]
- ✧ The servant gave Boaz a good report concerning Ruth, that she had requested permission to glean in the field, and had been a diligent worker who had only rested a little in the house.
- ✧ Boaz went over to Ruth and instructed her to remain in his fields with his young women, and that she had permission to drink of the water the young men had drawn when she was thirsty.
- ✧ Boaz commanded the young men not to touch Ruth.
- ✧ Ruth's foreign status was acceptable to Boaz, and he showed respect toward Ruth because she had left the land of her nativity and came to a foreign land for the sake of Naomi.
- ✧ Boaz blessed Ruth for the choice she had made and acknowledged that she had left her native land and gods and had come to Israel seeking refuge under the God of Israel.
- ✧ Boaz also included Ruth at mealtime allowing her to eat with the reapers and Ruth saved some of it to take home to Naomi.
- ✧ When Ruth had gone back to the field to glean, Boaz commanded the reapers to help her and leave grain out of the bundles for her to glean.

#### Day's end Ruth returned to Naomi her mother-in-law [Ruth 2:17-23]

- ✧ At the end of the day Ruth beat out the grain she had gleaned and she had about an ephah (22 liters or six gallons) of barley which she took home to Naomi.
- ✧ Upon arrival at home Ruth gave Naomi the portion of food she had kept back that Boaz had given her at mealtime.

- ✧ Naomi inquired where Ruth had worked, and pronounced a blessing on the one who had taken notice of her.
- ✧ Ruth told her it was in the field of Boaz and that Boaz had instructed her to continue with his harvesters until all the harvest was finished.
- ✧ Naomi said that Boaz was a close relative, and that Ruth should stay in his fields.
  - ✧ Naomi was thinking of the law concerning the near kinsman. [\[Deuteronomy 25:5-10\]](#)
  - ✧ Ruth continued in the fields of Boaz until the end of the barley and wheat harvest.
  - ✧ Ruth was living with her mother-in-law Naomi.