

Ruth Part 3: "Hold Fast to Grace" (10-1-2017)

Intro to the Study of Ruth: The 4 short chapters of Ruth will take us throughout the scripture – it's 1 complete story all pointing to Jesus and every detail matters and speaks of Him.

Hebrews 10:23 (ESV)

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Review: Hold Fast to the King & to His People (Review the setting . . . Naomi leaves full & returns empty with Ruth

This Week: Hold Fast to Grace

Ruth 1:22-2:2 (ESV)

(1:22) So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest. (2:1) Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. (2:2) And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

Note: Signs of Hope . . .

- After a 10+ year famine – the 1st harvest is just beginning!
- There is a relative (kinsman) – and **He is a worthy man named Boaz** . . .
 - **Worthy man = Mighty man of wealth**
 - **Mighty** - brave, strong, mighty, manly, vigorous (a term used for God – "Mighty God")
 - **Wealth** - strength, wealth, army. This word has the basic idea of strength and influence.
 - **Boaz** - quickness, swiftness, or literally, in him, strength. Name of 1 of the 2 columns on the porch of Solomon's Temple.
- So, Ruth asks to glean in the fields (**Jewish welfare** – provided by the wealthy, but gathered by the poor)
 - In the hopes that she would find **Favor (Grace)**
 - We are about to see a picture of **God's Grace . . . Providence, Protection, Provision**
 - Notice – Ruth's 1st step: She is looking for Grace
 - To receive Grace we need to put Hope into Action (Faith)

Ephesians 2:8 (ESV)

For by **grace** you have been saved through **faith**. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God

Note: God saves us by His Grace and He gives us the gift of faith. So, like Ruth let's put Hope into Action!

Now let's see God's Grace at work in this story . . .

1) The Providence of Grace (look for it)

Ruth 2:3 (ESV)

So she set out 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 clan of Elimelech.

Note: Ruth goes out expectantly & hopefully looking for Grace, & she just “happens” upon the field of . . .

- Boaz the mighty man of wealth (our hero!)
- This is a picture of God’s Providence. There are no accidents in His Kingdom!

Ruth 2:4-5 (ESV)

(4) And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered, "The LORD bless you." (5) Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"

Note:

- Vs. 4 – they must be Baptists (a little joke about the greeting)
- Notice Ruth catches His eye – whose young woman is that? Is she spoken for?
- **Providence** – there are no accidents in His field, when we go looking for Grace, we may find it in surprising ways, but you can be sure that by His hand of **providence** . . .
 - The Lord is with you
 - and the Lord will bless you!

2) The Protection of Grace (stay close)

Ruth 2:8-9 (ESV)

(8) Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. (9) Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn."

Note:

- **Boaz offers Protection:** “Have I not charged the young men not to touch you?”
- **Ruth is a Moabite:** she is unclaimed, unspoken for, unprotected, she is vulnerable
- **Why would he have to tell the young men not to touch her?** (rape & abuse was a real threat)
 - **Watch your company** . . . notice something:
 - Stay close to “my young women” (Boaz vs. 8)
 - Stay close to “my young men” (Ruth vs. 21)
 - It is good that you stay close to “his young women” (Naomi vs. 22)

Ruth 2:21 (ESV)

And Ruth the Moabite said, "Besides, he said to me, 'You shall keep close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'"

Ruth 2:22 (ESV)

And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted."

Ruth 2:23 (ESV)

So she kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

Note: If we want to experience the Protection of Grace, then we should “**stay close**”

3) The Provision of Grace (gather)**Ruth 2:15-16 (ESV)**

(15) When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. (16) And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her."

Note: Notice the abundance that is provided, He leaves her extra from the good stock (not just the leftovers)

Ruth 2:17-18 (ESV)

(17) So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. (18) And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied.

Note: Ruth gathered – she gleaned till evening, and then she sifted through what she had gleaned. The Provision of Grace requires our Participation. **Gather God’s Grace into your life!!!**

Ruth 2:19-20 (ESV)

(19) And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man 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) And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!" Naomi also said to her, "The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers."

Note: The Provision of Grace is an over-abundance, and it is made available by our Kinsman-Redeemer . . .

All of this is possible because of Boaz . . . The Hero who is able & willing to provide!!

Conclusion: “Hold Fast to Grace”

- Look for God’s Providence
- Stay close for God’s Protection
- Gather in God’s Provision