



BOAZ

Ruth 2:1–23

RELATED SCRIPTURES

Ruth 1 | Leviticus 25:25–55 | Titus 2:14

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 6.16.24

SUMMARY

As the narrative of Ruth continues, Naomi and Ruth are back in Bethlehem and in dire straits. The only means of providing for themselves was their reliance on the law, which stipulated that landowners had to leave the outermost edges of their property open for the needy. Those without land were given access to this part of the field to gather “gleanings,” the leftover food or grain. Ruth stepped out in faith, believing there was a generous, God-fearing landowner who would make room for the poor—this man’s name was Boaz. As it happens (which is really divine appointment), Boaz is a relative of Naomi’s. It didn’t take Boaz long to notice Ruth, a foreign woman working—very hard—on her own, and he befriends her. Boaz’s favor extended beyond kindness; he protected her, brought her near, and provided her with the best grain in abundance. When Ruth returned home, it left Naomi nothing short of stunned, immediately wondering and questioning Ruth as to where she obtained all this good grain. Ruth tells Naomi the origin of her spoils, noting it was Boaz whom Naomi immediately realized was a relative, also calling him “one of our redeemers” (Ruth 2:20). Another provision in the law stipulated the duty for family members to care for one another and even buy back (redeem) family members who had fallen into debt having to sell themselves into slavery (Leviticus 25:25–55). Though this law was active, Naomi’s situation was precarious; Boaz wasn’t a brother to Naomi’s husband, and Ruth was the product of a foreign marriage. In other words, Boaz wasn’t obligated to care for Naomi and Ruth—he was driven by grace. These actions point us forward to Jesus Christ and his disposition towards his people; he is under no obligation to redeem his people, yet grace prevails. He finds us in our despair, draws us near, provides for us, and does so in abundance. Christ is our Redeemer.

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Ruth 2:1–23.

What parallels can you draw between Ruth and Jesus? How does Ruth’s behavior towards Naomi point us to Jesus?

What parallels can you draw between Boaz and Jesus? How does Boaz point us to Jesus? How has Jesus redeemed us?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.