

Ruth 2

Ruth 2.1-7

V1 – The next character to be introduced in the book? Boaz, a relative of Naomi

- Boaz is a person of great virtue in the Bible
- Ruth is also a virtuous woman, similar to Mary in the New Testament
- Some have suggested that Boaz was a "type" or symbol of Christ in the Old Testament (the redeemer – *Ruth 4.4*)

V2 – Comment of Ruth? To glean in the fields

Read Lev. 19.9, Lev. 23.22, Deut. 24.19

- Characteristic of Ruth?** Very industrious – wanted to get to work right away; not lazy
- Old saying: "God helps those who help themselves"
- Where in the New Testament are we told not to support lazy people who will not work?**
1-2 Thessalonians
- After one...?** – A reference to the fact that some (many?) farmers must have disobeyed the Old Testament law on poor people
- She had to find a farmer who honored the Law of Moses

V3 – What "happened" as she gleaned in the fields? She came across a field belonging to Boaz

-**A coincidence?** – *Romans 8.28*

V4 – What does this tell us about Boaz? He was on good terms with his workers – very friendly to them, no management-labor problems

-Also, Boaz did not worship idols (as did many in Israel at that time)

V5 – What is indicated by v 5? Boaz was probably a middle-aged man – he referred to "the young woman"

V6 – The answer of the servant

V7 – This indicates that Ruth had worked hard - she had only been in the house a little while

Ruth 2.8-13

V8 – What did Boaz recommend? That Ruth stay in his fields

-**Why?** More protection for her (a young widow, etc.)

V9 – Further instructions to Ruth? Use water Boaz had set out for his own servants

V10 – What was the reaction of Ruth? Fell on her face and bowed down to Boaz

-**What does this indicate about her character?** Humble and grateful for his help

-**Her words?** "Why me?" – a foreigner, etc.

V 11 – What did Boaz admire about Ruth? Her help of Naomi and her dedication to be a part of Israel

V 12 – The book endorses the one true God

-There is a spiritual message to the book

-There were still people in Israel who were faithful to God, in spite of the violence, immorality, and idolatry

V 13 – Response? More humility

-Nothing in the book describes the looks of Ruth – no mention

-Rather, it is her spiritual life that is emphasized (the same today in looking for a husband or wife)

-Where does the Bible describe the ideal wife in the mind of God? *Proverbs 31*

-What does *Proverbs 31* say about the appearance of this woman? Nothing

-Rather, what is emphasized there? She cares for her family, makes her husband proud, sets a good spiritual example, does the buying for the family, makes clothes, etc.

If time: **Read 1 Peter 3.1-6**

Ruth 2.14-16

V 14 – What did Boaz do next? He had lunch with Ruth (Boaz is sort of warming up)

V 15 – Very industrious – didn't take long for lunch

-New instructions from Boaz? "Let Ruth glean among the sheaves, and don't insult Ruth"

-In other words, show favoritism to Ruth (he is already beginning to take the bait)

V 16 – Also, give her extra grain (Boaz is falling into the oldest trap in the world!)

Ruth 2.17-23

V 17 – How long did she glean in the fields? Until evening (again, not lazy)

She got an ephah of barley = bushel and 3 pints

V 18 – That evening? Took grain back to Naomi

V 19 – What did Naomi ask? "In whose field did you work?"

V 20 – Naomi gave a blessing on Boaz

-"Living and the dead" = Ruth and Naomi

-Boaz = not next to kin in line, but close

-We can see the wheels turning in Naomi's mind

V 21 – Ruth reported all that Boaz said

V 22 – Advice of Naomi? Stay close to the other young ladies (for safety)

V 23 – **How long did Ruth glean in the fields of Boaz?** Till the end of the wheat harvest
-**Do you think that Ruth and Boaz are in love yet?** Yes (by the end of *Ruth 2*)
Read Song of Solomon 8.6 (value of love between a man and a woman)

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