



THE GOSPEL IN RUTH

RETURN AND REDEMPTION

BOAZ RUTH 2

"We see Ruth taking advantage of God's gracious law that the poor and stranger might glean after the reapers. She lost no time to go to work in the harvest field which she afterward learned belonged to the wealthy Boaz, a near kinsman to her late husband who had die in Moab. She did not know how kind, noble and generous this rich kinsman was until she went to work in his field."—Irving L. Jensen

I. GRACE RELATIONSHIP (2:1-3)

- A. Relative value...introducing Boaz ("In him is strength") (v. 1)
- B. Ruth's resolution (v. 2)
- C. Remarkable coincidence (v. 3)

"Fate! There is no fate. Between the thought and the success God is the only agent."—Edward G. Bulwer-Lytton

II. GRACE ENCOUNTER (2:4-7)

- A. Spiritual amiability (v. 4)
- B. Sensitive perception (vs. 5, 6)
- C. Satisfactory status (v. 7)

III. GRACE EXTENDED (2:8-12)

- A. Gracious instructions (vs. 8, 9) ("stay, watch, follow, drink")
- B. Humble self-awareness (v. 10)
- C. Remembrance and refuge (vs. 11, 12)

IV. GRACE SHARING (2:13, 14)

- A. Affirmative appeal for favor (v. 13)
- B. Allotment of grace generosity (v. 14)

V. GRACE ABUNDANCE (2:15-17)

- A. The generous lord of the fields (vs. 15, 16)
- B. The gleaning of benefit (v. 17)

VI. GRACE ACKNOWLEDGED (2:18-23)

- A. Naomi and the Boaz report (vs. 18-20)
- B. Promise of the favored field (vs. 21, 22)
- C. Toward the harvest (v. 23)

"Grace is the good pleasure of God that inclines him to bestow benefits upon the undeserving. It is a self-existent principle inherent in the divine nature and appears to us as a self-caused propensity to pity the wretched, spare the guilty, welcome the outcast, and bring into favor those who were before under just disapprobation. Its use to us sinful men is to save us and make us sit together in heavenly places to demonstrate to the ages the exceeding riches of God's kindness to us in Christ Jesus."

—A. W. Tozer

FOR THOUGHT, DISCUSSION, AND APPLICATION...

1. Many today think that success is just a matter of being in the right place at the right time. How do Ruth's experiences thus far contradict *coincidence*? What do her steps in chapter 2 teach us about guidance?
2. The book of Ruth contains several lines of application content, one of which is *grace*. How do the six key words of the outline suggest the steps toward Christ's grace in the present age?
3. Some have also seen mother-in-law Naomi as fading from the center of attention. Without leaping ahead to chapters 3 and 4, what positive role lessons may we learn from Naomi? What factors might have contributed to her being healed of bitterness?
4. As we are introduced to *Boaz*, a number of spiritual character qualities appear. Discuss what we like about him from the outset. In what ways does he typically suggest the Lord Jesus Christ?
5. Though emigrating out of pagan Moab, Ruth displays highly commendable traits. Do you think that they came from her already-intact faith in Jehovah? Or was she just a nice personality? Discuss the issue of *human good*.
6. Boaz seems to have found affluence and fulfillment in Bethlehem-Judah. Compare his story with that of Elimelech and Naomi, and their departure. Can we Christians really get answers when to stay or go? How?

