



THE GOSPEL IN RUTH

RETURN AND REDEMPTION

FAVOR *RUTH 2:13-23*

“Always take the lowest place, and the highest will be given to you, for high structures require a solid foundation. The greatest, in the judgment of God, are the least in their own opinion; the more worthy they are, the more humility will be seen in them.”—Thomas À Kempis

I. GRACE SHARING (2:13, 14)

A. Affirmative appeal for favor (v. 13)

1. Ruth's authentic humility

B. Allotment of grace generosity (v. 14)

1. Invitation to fellowship—unique communion.

“The greatest blessing we ever get from God is to know that we are destitute spiritually.”—Oswald Chambers



II. GRACE ABUNDANCE (2:15-17)

A. The generous lord of the fields (vs. 15, 16) [“handfuls of purpose”,
KJV]

B. The gleaning of benefit (v. 17)

“Fulfillment comes as a by-product of our love for God. And that satisfaction is better than we ever imagined. God can make the pieces of this world's puzzle fit together; he helps us view the world from a new perspective.”

—Erwin W. Lutzer

III. GRACE ACKNOWLEDGED (2:18-23)

A. Naomi and the Boaz report (vs. 18-20)

1. Naomi's double encouragement, provision and promise.

B. Prospect of the favored field (vs. 21, 22)

C. Toward the harvest (v. 23)

1. Protection, provision and promise

“Circumstances may appear to wreck our lives and Gods plans, but God is not helpless among the ruins. Our broken lives are not lost or useless. God's love is still working. He comes in and takes the calamity and uses it victoriously, working out his wonderful plan of love.”—Eric Liddell

FOR THOUGHT, DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION...

1. In verse 13, it is stated that Ruth displayed at least five signs of spiritual transparency. Identify and discuss these traits and suggest how they might be lived out in the age of grace.
2. What spiritual applications might be made regarding Boaz' kind generosity toward Ruth (vs. 15-17), and the grace of God toward us? Check Ephesians 3:20, and discuss the central thought.
3. It's sometimes risky to play “what if”, but what if Ruth had not decided to go to Boaz' fields to work? Or, what if Naomi refused to let her go? What are our best sources for guidance today? Put this into the context of education, careers, marriage, living locations, etc.
4. What do you think was meant by Naomi's statement in verse 20, that Boaz showed “his kindness to the living and the dead”. In a Bible dictionary, look up the word “levirate for background information.
5. We can safely assume that Ruth had been powerfully influenced by her mother-in-law's faith in Jehovah. However, what makes us know that she had to make her own spiritual choices? How much of life is a matter of odds and probabilities for landing in the right field?