

## Ruth 2 Amazing Grace

*A young lady went to pray. And she prayed like this:  
"Lord give me a clean heart. Give me a pure heart.  
But above all, Give me a sweetheart"*

### I. Saving Grace

- A. 2:1 ***Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, from the clan of Elimelech, a man of standing, whose name was Boaz.***
- B. It is a saving grace because Boaz pictures Christ.
- C. Ruth needs grace
  - 1. She is crushed - Widowed and impoverished
  - 2. She is cursed - as a Gentile
- D. The Law held her in curse, but grace will save her.
- E. How is Boaz is a picture of Christ?
  - 1. He is from Bethlehem
  - 2. He was near kinsman to Ruth as Jesus is to us.
    - a. Heb 2:11 *Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.*
  - 3. He has the means to redeem Ruth. Jesus has the means, the power, to save us.
  - 4. Boaz was willing to redeem, So was Jesus.
  - 5. Boaz came to fields where Ruth was just as Jesus came to earth, where I am.

### II. Sovereign Grace

- A. ***2 And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find grace." Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter." 3 So she went out and began to glean in the fields behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she found herself working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelech.***
- B. Cultural Background.
  - 1. There was a rule that in the harvest of a field, some should be left for the poor.
    - a. Lev 19:9 *When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10 Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God.*
    - b. This is what Ruth did. She gleaned the field
- C. Note the sovereignty of God: It just so happened she picked a part of the field to glean which belonged to Boaz, who it turns out is a near-kinsman. Or did it just

happen? Here is the hidden hand of God! And who will happen upon the field at just the moment Ruth is there? Boaz.

- D. Psalm 139:16 *All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.*

### III. Seeking Grace

- A. **4** *Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The LORD be with you!" "The LORD bless you!" they called back. 5 Boaz asked the foreman of his harvesters, "Whose young woman is that?" 6 The foreman replied, "She is the Moabitess who came back from Moab with Naomi. 7 She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.' She went into the field and has worked steadily from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter."*
- B. 1 John 4:19 *...He first loved us.*  
1. Before we knew or saw God he saw and loved us.  
2. John 15:16 *You did not choose me, but I chose you*
- C. Notice that it is Boaz who takes the initiative. Ruth could not take the initiative. A woman could not approach a man in those days. Furthermore:  
1. She is a pagan, he an Israelite  
2. She is impoverished he is wealthy  
3. He is of power, she is lowly  
4. She didn't have a prayer unless he first took notice of her.  
5. Rom 5:8 *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- D. God is seeking you. He loves and calls you.

### IV. Satisfying Grace

- A. **8** *So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with my servant girls. 9 Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the girls. I have told the men not to touch you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled."....14 At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar." When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over. 15 As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, "Even if she gathers among the sheaves, don't embarrass her. 16 Rather, pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don't rebuke her."*
- B. Boaz, in his love for her lavishly gives unto her. Here is what god does for us also in Christ Jesus

1. John 6:35 *Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.*
2. John 7:37 *On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him*
3. Rev 22:16 *I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.*
4. Mat 5:5 *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*
5. Rom 8:32 *He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?*

V. Securing Grace

- A. **9 Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the girls. I have told the men not to touch you....22 Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It will be good for you, my daughter, to go with his girls, because in someone else's field you might be harmed."**
- B. Boaz guards her as God Guards us:
  1. Ps 91:4 *He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*
  2. Jude 1:24 *To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy--25 to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.*
  3. 2 Tim 4:18 *The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

VI. Situated Grace

- A. **10 At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She exclaimed, "Why have I found such grace in your eyes that you notice me--a foreigner?" 11 Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband--how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. 12 May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."**
- B. Ruth's blessings don't come out of the blue. She has cooperated through faith and

been made thereby open to all God's blessings.

- C. It is not that the grace is a reward for her faith but rather that she is able to yield to the faith that God works in her as his first work of salvation in her.
- D. All is grace but we must yield to this great work of God. The interaction of grace which is sovereign on God's part and human freedom is somewhat mysterious but we can discuss it's parameters in class.

## VII. Settled Grace

- A. *13 "May I continue to find favor in your eyes, my lord," she said. "You have given me comfort and have spoken kindly to your servant--though I do not have the standing of one of your servant girls...." She added, "That man is our close relative; he is one of our kinsman-redeemers." 21 Then Ruth the Moabitess said, "He even said to me, 'Stay with my workers until they finish harvesting all my grain.'" ....23 So Ruth stayed close to the servant girls of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.*
- B. Salvation is free but we must continue to accept it every day. Ruth must remain and stay close, following Boaz's instructions
- C. For the Christian grace is always available but we must stay close to God. Note too, the instruction to stay close to the servants. We too are to be in a fellowship of believers and enjoy communal blessings.
  - 1. Heb 10:24 *and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*
  - 2. Acts 2:42 *And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*
- D. Kinsman-redeemer (*go elim*) Kinsman redeemer was the nearest available kinsman who could redeem the childless widow of a relative
  - 1. Two duties are being combined here:
    - a. Lev 25:23 *"The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants. Throughout the country that you hold as a possession, you must provide for the redemption of the land. "If one of your countrymen becomes poor and sells some of his property, his nearest relative is to come and redeem what his countryman has sold.*
    - b. Deut 25:5 *If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her.*

2. As yet, in terms of our story Boaz is unaware of his relationship to Ruth.

VIII. Showing and Sharing Grace

- A. ***17 So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah. 18 She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough. 19 Her mother-in-law asked her, "Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!" Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been working. "The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz," she said. 20 "The LORD bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead."***
- B. Ruth shares and declares her blessings with Naomi
- C. Note that Naomi sees the fruits of her grace.
  1. Are the results of grace so obvious in our life?
  2. 1 Peter 3:15 but in your hearts reverence Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to make a defense to any one who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence;
- D. Psalm 89:1 I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.