



Lesson 2 ~ May 5, 2020

Gleaning the Fields

Gleaning was based on God's commandment in the Law:

Leviticus 19:9-10: 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. 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.

All through scripture we see God's concern for poor and helpless people.

Deuteronomy 10:18: He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing.

The Owner of the Fields - Boaz

Boaz means "in him is strength," and truly Boaz is a man of strength and courage.

From [Ruth 2:4](#), what insight do we get into this man, Boaz?

Boaz, a Picture of Jesus, Our Redeemer

Boaz is a picture of our Lord Jesus Christ in his relationship to his bride, the Church.

Notice some beautiful analogies in how Boaz first responds to Ruth:

1. Boaz took the initiative.

John 15:16: You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

1 Peter 2:9: But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1 Corinthians 1:9: God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. Boaz spoke to Ruth.

Hebrews 1:1-2: In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

3. Boaz promised to protect Ruth and provide for her needs.

Philippians 4:19: And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

4. Boaz encouraged Ruth.

Psalms 10:17: You, LORD, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry

A Kinsman-Redeemer

Naomi's hope came not only from the fact that Ruth had brought her lots of grain, but she immediately knew that Boaz was a kinsman-redeemer. A near kinsman could rescue relatives from poverty and give them a new beginning.

Read [Leviticus 25:25-34](#).

As a near relative, Boaz could redeem the family property that Elimelech had mortgaged when he took his family to Moab. Naomi wasn't wealthy enough to redeem it, but Boaz could buy it back and keep it in the family.

If ever a family's property was lost - through tragedy, poor business management, or for whatever other reason - those boundaries and that inheritance could be reinstated to the family through the action of a near relative. That relative or kinsman was called the "kinsman-redeemer."

What was required to be a kinsman-redeemer?

- Someone who would care about what was lost.
- Someone who would do something about it.
- Someone who could and would pay the price of redemption.

This was part of God's gracious plan to meet desperate needs and take care of widows.