

Ruth 2:8-23
Receiving the Harvest of the Redeemer
December 9, 2007

- I. The Generosity of Boaz (vv. 8-16)
- A. Shows favor to the stranger for Moab
1. keep your eyes on my field (vv. 8-9)
 2. Boaz gives blessing and favor to Ruth (vv. 10-13)
 - a. why have I found favor (grace) in your eyes?
 - b. The LORD repay and reward you
 - c. I have found favor (grace) – comfort and kindness
 3. how will God answer the prayer of Boaz?
- B. Boaz brings Ruth into his family (v. 15)
1. remember: Ruth doesn't yet know that Boaz is a relative of Naomi's husband
 2. unusual invitation to eat with the family
 3. Boaz fills her plate
 4. She ate until she was satisfied
Psalm 22:26 ²⁶ The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever!
- C. Generosity beyond the letter of the law
1. already drinking and eating with household of Boaz (vv. 9, 14)
 2. gleaning among the sheaves, not from the edges (v. 15)
 3. Boaz gives to her from his own grain (v. 16)
 4. What does the Lord require?
Micah 6:8 ⁸ He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
David Atkinson: "There is no place for legalism in the faith of the people of God. A cold adherence to the strict letter of law takes law outside the covenant of grace, at the heart of which is a relationship of generous love, which law is intended to safeguard and, through the exercise of obedience, to deepen and enrich. These verses point not merely to sufficient provision for Ruth's needs, but like the basketsful left over after the 5,000 had fed, to a generosity which gave her ever more than she required."
 5. the generosity of Boaz, the redeemer, reflects the abundant generosity of our Redeemer
David Atkinson: "By [caring for the poor] Boaz is sharing something of the character of the God made known more fully to us in Christ, who, so the apostle teaches, is 'able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think.'" (Eph. 3:20)

6. Irony: Boaz becomes the answer to his own prayer – the LORD rewards Ruth and Naomi through Boaz

II. Ruth and Naomi receive a harvest from their redeemer

A. Notice the abundance of the harvest

1. an ephah of barley = 30 to 50 pounds, one full month of food
2. Naomi's response – blessed be the man (v. 19a)
3. Suspense and climax: The man's name is Boaz (v. 19b)

B. Naomi recognizes the covenant faithfulness/kindness of the LORD

1. Do you remember 1:8? May the LORD show you kindness in Moab.
2. Whose kindness? Naomi sees the kindness of the LORD in Bethlehem through the kindness of Boaz
3. The LORD provides a Redeemer
 - a. Naomi's love for Ruth → one of our redeemers
 - b. Opens up new possibilities
 - i. not only generous
 - ii. not only a worthy man of valor (v. 1)
 - iii. a redeemer
 - c. what duties will he fulfill?
 - d. One more word from Ruth – inclusion in the family (v. 21)
4. Naomi's good advice (v. 22) mirrors the advice of Boaz (vv. 8-9)

III. The Close of This Scene

A. Ruth's obedience

1. keeps close to the young women
2. continues to gather the harvest

B. Hint of things to come

1. how much time has passed?
 - a. 1:22 Passover – the beginning of the barley harvest
 - b. 2:23 Pentecost – the end of the barley and wheat harvests
2. Pentecost → feast of first fruits
3. Boaz prayed that Ruth would receive “a full reward” from the LORD (v. 12)
4. she lived with her mother-in-law → what about a husband?