

## The Love of a Kinsman

Ruth 2:8-16

In this chapter, Ruth meets her future husband. **Ruth** represents all who are saved by the grace of God. Boaz represents the Lord Jesus, our Kinsman Redeemer. Boaz owns the fields like God owns the world. Boaz appears in 2:1 where he is called a “a mighty man, a wealthy man, and a kinsman” – just like Jesus.

- The nearest kinsman had the right to redeem the inheritance his brother had lost (Lev. 25:25).
- The kinsman was to marry the widow of his brother to preserve the seed of Israel (Deut. 25:5-10).

### I. God’s grace in redeeming you.

Redemption and grace always go hand in hand. Wherever you find one, you find the other. Like Boaz, those who are redeemed by Christ shall be wed to Christ! All whom God redeems, He saves! All whom He redeems, He blesses! As Boaz invoked upon Ruth a full reward, so every believer is fully rewarded. A Christian is “to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (II Pet. 3:18).

There are three things Ruth does in this text that evidences her growth in grace:

- A. Ruth’s subservient spirit (v. 10). Bowing before Boaz is an act of subservience and honor. You’re not growing in grace if there is not the regular practice of honoring God in your life.
- B. Ruth’s humble heart. (v. 10, 13) “Why have I found favor in your sight (for) *I am a foreigner?*” This is always the question of a learner of God’s grace. There is no deserving of His favor. *“Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it’s thinking of yourself less.”* C.S. Lewis.
- C. Ruth’s satisfied soul (v. 14). At Boaz’ table “she ate and was satisfied and had some left.” “Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine” (Eph. 3:20).

### II. Your faith in His redemption of you.

Faith is a gift of God (Eph. 2:8). But “faith” is a living principle in you, a grace that works out (Gal. 5:6). Faith does something (James 2:14-26). God doesn’t forget your work of faith (1 Thess. 1:3; Heb. 6:10). Ruth came to trust God (v. 12). Naomi had taught Ruth the things of God. Ruth had come to trust Yahweh, the Lord God of Israel Himself. She believed God! She’d come to trust Him under His wings! In the Tabernacle, the Mercy-Seat and the ceiling were covered with wings for cover and safety.

*“Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of Your wings”* (Psalm 17:8)

- A. Ruth left her own people (the Moabites) and found redemption Bethlehem.
- B. Ruth abandoned all earthly comforts and benefits that came from Moab to find redemption.
- C. Ruth resolved to worship and serve the Lord God of Israel and forsake all other gods.

### III. Your reward for faith in Him.

*“May the LORD reward your work, and your wages be full from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek Refuge.”* (v. 12). *What was the work of Ruth? She gleaned.*

- A. Gleaning was difficult, backbreaking work – so too is living the Christian life.
- B. Ruth gleaned from that which was not hers. “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not insult her” (v. 15). The “sheaves” were the bundles of harvest, planted and reaped by someone else, but Ruth received the benefit.
- C. Ruth found extra grain on the corners of the field.
- D. Ruth had her every need met by the mighty, wealthy, kinsman who wed her.
- E. So too, Christ will give to you in this life and the next His amazing favor. “God has redeemed you...in order that in the coming ages He might show you the incomparable Riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:7).