

EPISODE NO. 115

Ruth 2:1-23

Ruth Worked in the Field of Boaz

1 Now, Naomi had a relative on her husband's side of the family. He was a very rich man in the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz. 2 Ruth, the Moabite woman, said to Naomi, "Allow me to go now to the field and pick up the leftover grain behind whomever gives me the privilege."

Naomi said to her, "Yes, go on, my daughter."

3 So, Ruth set out to go and glean in the fields behind the harvesters. She happened to come to the part of the field that belonged to Boaz. (He was from the family of Elimelech.) 4 And, look, Boaz came from the town of Bethlehem and said to the harvesters, "May the Always-Present One be with you!"

And they answered him, "May the Always-Present One bless you!"

5 Then Boaz asked his servant who supervised the harvesters, "Whose girl is that?"

6 The foreman answered, "She is the Moabite girl who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. 7 She came and asked me, 'Let me please glean and gather among the stalks of grain behind the harvesters.' So, she came, and she has continued to work hard since early morning until now, except for resting a little while in the hut."

8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen carefully, my daughter. Do not go to glean in any other field or leave here. Stay close to my girls. 9 Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along behind them. I have ordered the young men not to bother you. And, when you get thirsty, go to our water-jars and drink from what the young men have drawn."

10 Then Ruth got down on the ground and bowed herself, saying to him, "Why would you be so nice to me!? Why would you even notice me? I am a foreigner!"

11 Then Boaz answered her, "Everything that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband Mahlon has been fully explained to me — how you left your father, your mother, and your native land of Moab, to come to a people whom you never knew before now. 12 May Yahweh reward your good deeds and may He give you

a rich blessing. He is the God of Israel. You have come to seek protection under His wings.”

13 Then she said, “You are being very nice to me, my master. You have spoken so kindly to me and encouraged me, even though I am not one of your own servant girls.”

14 At mealtime, Boaz said to her, “Come here, eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine sauce.” Then she sat beside the harvesters. And they passed roasted grain to her. She ate until she was satisfied. She even had some grain left over. 15 And when she got up to glean, Boaz ordered his young men, saying, “Let her glean even among the stalks of grain; and don’t embarrass her! 16 Also, be sure to pull out some stalks from the bundles for her and leave them for her. Allow her to glean, and don’t rebuke her!”

17 So, Ruth gleaned in the fields until evening. Then she beat out what she had gathered, and it amounted to about one ephah of barley. 18 Then she picked it up and brought it into town. Ruth’s mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. Ruth also brought out and gave to Naomi the food that she had left over after being satisfied at mealtime. 19 Ruth’s mother-in-law asked her, “Where did you glean today? Where did you work? May the man who took notice of you be blessed!”

So, Ruth told her mother-in-law whom she had worked with. Ruth said, “The man’s name whom I worked with today is Boaz.”

20 Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “May this man be blessed by the Always-Present One! God has not withdrawn His kindness to those who are alive or to dead people!”

Then Naomi said to her, “This man Boaz is a relative of ours — one of our closest relatives!”

21 Ruth, the Moabite woman, said, “Yes, and he even said to me, ‘You must stay close to my young men until they have finished harvesting my whole crop.’”

22 Then Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, “My daughter, it is good that you will be going out with HIS girls and that others will not be bothering you in any other field.”

23 So, Ruth stayed close to the girls of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley harvest AND the wheat harvest. And, Ruth lived with her mother-in-law.