

Character Study: Ruth

Part 2 – Ruth's Heart to Serve

Ruth 2

What's happening?

- Once settled in Bethlehem, Ruth went to work in the field of a wealthy man named Boaz. As permitted by Jewish law, Ruth was allowed to gather scraps of food left behind in the field by the reapers. (2:1-3)
- Boaz noticed Ruth and invited her to work in the part of the field where only the women worked. He was amazed that she willingly left her homeland on behalf of Naomi. He asked God's blessing on her. (2:4-13)
- Boaz invited Ruth to a nice meal and then allowed her to keep gathering scraps from the field. Boaz had his workers intentionally leave plenty of grain on the ground for Ruth to find. (2:14-17)
- Ruth showed Naomi the food and told her how she had been working in Boaz's field. Naomi was thrilled. She told Ruth how Boaz was a close relative of theirs. (2:18-23)

What's God doing?

> God had led Ruth to Boaz, a person who could be a kinsman redeemer to her. Note the law requirements for someone to be a kinsman redeemer:

1. He must be a near kinsman (Lev. 25:48-49; Ruth 3:12-13).
2. He must be willing to redeem (Lev. 25:25; Gal. 4:4-5).
3. He must be able to redeem - financial able, and not in need of being redeemed himself (Lev. 25:50; Ruth 4:4-6).

What's to learn?

→ Note the significance and importance of having a kinsman redeemer: When an individual lost his/her freedom (i.e. sold into slavery) or inheritance (land) due to a circumstance such as poverty, the kinsman redeemer was able to buy it back for them. In the absence of a brother-in-law, the kinsman redeemer could also fill the role of taking a widow as his spouse (note Deut. 25:5-10). Through Boaz, Ruth's life could be changed forever!

→ In Scripture, we see one who functions as a kinsman redeemer for us. Jesus Christ Himself takes this role in order to redeem us from the power of sin (Heb. 2:11-18; 1 Peter 1:18-19; John 10:11-18)!