

Redeemed

Under His Wings
Ruth 2
August 16, 2015

“The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!” -Ruth 2:12

I. NAOMI HAD A RELATIVE OF HER HUSBAND’S...

- Here is how God will begin the restoration of Naomi’s life and the line of the kings of Judah (Ruth 4:18-22).
- Ruth will glean the fields not as a laborer, but as a poor alien in the land - a blessing for which God made provision in the law (Deut. 10:19; 24:19-22; Ps. 146:9).
- There was a kindness in the law; it demonstrated the mercy of God (Ex. 34:5-6).
- Ruth “happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz.” We know better by now in the story. God is working sovereignly in this story (vss. 3, 12).

II. GOD’S AGENT– BOAZ

- God uses a relative of Elimelech to bestow early blessings on Naomi through Ruth (vss. 1, 8-16).
- Boaz is indeed a worthy man. He is kind to worker and alien alike, faithful to God. Women are safe in his presence; a rare quality in the time of the Judges (Judges 19; Ruth 2:4-16).

III. WORKING OUT SALVATION

- God was ready to bless Naomi, but Ruth still took it upon herself to act. God was there in the action (Ex. 14:15-16; Neh. 4:9; Prov. 12:11-14; 14:23; 21:25; Phil. 2:12-13; 2 Thess. 3:10).
- We do not work for salvation; we work as a result of salvation. Works righteousness is a heresy, but hard work is one of the marks of a growing Christian (Matt. 5:16; Eph. 2:10; 4:15; 1 Tim. 5:24-25; Heb. 10:23-25).

KNOW: Nothing is “happenstance” for the believer. God is at work in our lives. More often than not, hard work and wisdom return favor to us, and kindness and goodness are still special qualities.

DO: Work diligently. Trust God more diligently still.

Suggested Reading:

A Treatise on Good Works, by Martin Luther
Every Good Endeavor, by Timothy Keller

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Ruth 2

1. What does Ruth 2 teach about the relationship between human initiative and divine providence and where they intersect?
2. Can you recall an incident of “good luck” in your life that was simply too well-timed and too perfectly-suited to be anything but the gracious work of God?
3. Boaz reached out to a Moabitess. Are there people in your sphere of influence whom you wish to avoid? Why?
4. What does Ruth 2 teach about finding God’s will for/in your life?
5. Ruth finds favor in the eyes of Boaz. Why, do you think? Looks? Character? Sympathy? Read 2:10-13 and see if it helps clarify the answer.
6. Naomi seems to be coming around to the work of the Lord in her life in 2:20. What has brought about the change? In what ways are most of us like Naomi?