



RUTH

CHAPTER TWO



APRIL 15, 2025
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RUTH----CHAPTER 2

BIBLE STUDY----APRIL 15, 2025

RUTH is the 8th book of the Bible.....GENESIS-----EXODUS---
--LEVITICUS-----NUMBERS-----DEUTERONOMY-----JOSHUA-
--JUDGES-----RUTH.

RUTH only has 4 Chapters in the book.

**LET US READ CHAPTER 2 NOW...LINDA-----SONJA AND
DEBBIE WILL READ.**

AFTER READING:

Bethlehem is the “promise land” and its name means “HOUSE OF BREAD”. It’s interesting that they left “the House of Bread” and looked to the world of an idol worshiping City to satisfy their needs. They were there for 10 years, built a home, a farm and the 2 sons married. While there Naomi’s husband and 2 sons died. Naomi decided to return to the “House of Bread” or Bethlehem because she had heard about how the Lord had come to the aid of His people----by providing food for them. Naomi and her daughters-in-law

prepared for the trip to Bethlehem. Eventually Orpah returned to Moad, but Ruth stayed with Naomi.

It took faith, courage and effort for Ruth to leave her family, friends, home, language and her comfort zone to go to Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi.

Naomi's attitude is not what it is supposed to be. Remember she has changed her name to Mara which means "bitter". Naomi means "Pleasant". Naomi or Mara stated that she came back "empty". Rather than turning back to the Lord with a sweet spirit.

PROVERBS 3:5-6

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight. She was still holding on to some bitter things about what had happened."

A person cannot truly be restored to the Lord and be filled until they deal with and repent of the wrong emotions and thoughts inside of them. It is only human nature to look at the bad side of things and have bad thoughts about things

that go wrong. Naomis life was far from empty. She looked at the negative side of things and took Ruth for granted.

HOSEA 10:12 SAYS

“Fill me up Lord. I need you. Only you can satisfy. He is the Bread of Life. He can strengthen you and sustain you. Go to the Lord empty handed and He can fill you up.”

You cannot get filled with worldly things----They will never satisfy.

Ruth and Naomi get to Bethlehem after days of traveling. The women of Bethlehem tell Naomi that Ruth is better for her than 7 sons. But Naomi still does not see it.

Ruth took the initiative when they arrived in Bethlehem. The first thing Ruth does is to volunteer to go and glean. She does not wait around for someone to come and rescue or serve her. Ruth sees what needs to be done and she does it. It was already the time of harvest. Bailey harvest was during April and May. Naomi and Ruth certainly did not have time to plant and grow a crop.

There were only a few paths that a young women could take to provide for herself. And even fewer options were respectable.

Begging or prostitution were out of the question for a pure, industrious young women like Ruth. We see Ruths loyalty toward Naomi, but she has an even deeper commitment to her belief and conversion to the Lord.

Application lesson for our lives today:

There is a famous saying attributed to Ben Franklin:

“God helps those who help themselves.” Let us see what God has to say.

Proverbs 10:4

“A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich”.

Proverbs 13:14

“The Soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, While the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.”

2 Timothy 2:15

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed rightly handling the word of truth.”

God does favor those who are diligent and proactive. We should be people who observe what needs to be done and then take steps to do it-----even if it is not convenient or comfortable.

Ruth shows that she has many beautiful character qualities.

She is:

committed

decisive

loyal

good communicator

perseverance

strong worker

faithful helper

Her love for Naomi is a decision. It is an action. It is forever. It is unconditional love. She follows through----no matter what she must do or what happens.

Think about what character traits you have. Do you trust God with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding????

God established a certain kind of welfare system for Israel (in Biblical times). He commanded that landowners leave a small part of the crop unharvested. The poor people of the community could go and **glean**. To glean means to gather bit by bit---to gather leftover unharvested heads of the crop----after the bulk of the harvest is complete. (ex. barley, wheat, olives, grapes, etc.) The Lord commanded that the landowners leave a small part of the crop unharvested. This wasn't a way to become rich, but it was a way to have food to eat. The system that God set up has one key advantage over many welfare systems in the world today! The advantage was that those who needed food had to work to feed themselves. **NO HAND OUTS**. It would ensure that only hard working and industrious people---who needed it, could get food. It was available and easy---but not too easy.

This did not put an undue burden on landowners. For the owners, the system was easy to implement----all they had to do was leave a few crops in the field unharvested.

Even so some landowners would not want to share what they grew and would attempt to do the very least they were required to do by law. Others would not even do the minimum required by the law. People's selfish nature would fight against God's mandate toward generosity.

Leviticus 19: 9-10

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare. Neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and the sojourner. I am the Lord your God.”

Application for us today:

God wants us to be generous with what we have. Throughout the Bible we see that He cares for the poor. God wants us to care for them as well. We are not required to, no one is forcing us to share or be generous. **It is a choice.**

We have a choice to use what God has given us---to bless others or to hoard for our own desires. **What will you choose?**

Ruth knew about this practice. The fact that she was willing to go glean gives us some insight into the character of this young woman. She was diligent and was willing to work hard to feed herself and Naomi. It also shows us “her humility”.

Some people might say, “I would rather die than endure the humiliation of picking up other’s leftovers.” Ruth did not care very much about her own reputation or value. She was willing for others to know she was poor instead of trying to put on airs or pretend she was not.

Application for today:

God does not like vanity or pride. We should be real about who we are. Be real, genuine and truthful.

There is no shame in being poor. There is shame in thinking that you are “too good” for some tasks. Work is a good thing. Any kind of work, no matter how small or insignificant--- should be done with a good attitude, that is pleasing to God.

Proverbs 19: 17

“Whoever is generous to the poor, lends to the Lord and he will repay him for his deed.”

Acts 20: 35

“In all things I have shown you that working hard in this way---we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Proverbs 11:24-25

“One gives freely, yet grows all the richer, another with holes when he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched and one who waters will himself be watered.”

Application for today:

What would you do with your resources? How hard do you work? What kind of worker are you?

Ruth set out to find a field to glean. She happened to come to a field belonging to Boaz.

Now from people’s perspective it appears to be a happy coincidence---finally a bit of good luck. However, we know that God is sovereign. It was not luck or chance that brought her to Boaz’s field that day. It’s called “providence”.

Providence means that God divinely arranges circumstances and events in our lives to fulfill His good purposes for us.

Often, He arranges these things unseen and unknown.

To the unbeliever these are mere coincidences. But to those who put their faith in God, we know that He causes all things to work together for good for those who love Him.

God brought Ruth to Boaz's field for her good, for Boaz's good and for Naomi's good.

Ruth worked from before sunup until after dark in the evening.

Ruth 2: 7

She said, "Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters."

She came into the field and remained there from morning till night, except for a short rest in the shelter.

We see again that Ruth is very diligent---not afraid of hard work. She worked the whole day with only a short rest and lunch. Resting is sometimes necessary. God ordained that people work six days and rest one day.

Genesis 2: 2

"And by the seventh day God completed His work He had done, and He rested from all His work which He had done."

What kind of worker are you? Do you rest on Sunday?

Boaz is generous---He does not try to hoard his crop or try to make the most possible profit out of his fields.

He does not know Ruth personally, but he is happy to share what he has with her. His head worker tells him about Ruth and Naomi, he appreciates what Ruth has given up for Naomi. Boaz is a great Christian businessman. God wants Christian business owners to use the resources He has given them in a wise and generous manner. Consideration for others----employees and customers should trump dollars and cents.

Think of some businesses in our time that God has placed resources into their hands (chick- fillet...Hobby Lobby...Bob Utter Ford). Are they using generously for building Gods' kingdom or not?

Boaz is considerate. He treats Ruth in a kind, loving way---caring for her welfare, interests and needs. He acts like he has feelings for her. That feeling of love is not romantic or sensual---it's simply putting her needs first and treating her in a kind and unselfish manner.

In verses 15-16 Boaz commands his workers to purposefully leave extra grain for Ruth to pick up.

Ruth 2: 15-16

As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men,

“Let her gather among the sheaves and do not reprimand her, even pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up and don’t rebuke her.”

She gathered about an ephah, which is a dry measurement. It was roughly about 22 liters or 5.5 gallons.

Boaz does not even tell her about what he did. If Boaz told her, how might Ruth feel? He considers her feelings by making sure her needs are met but not drawing attention to the fact that he was doing it.

Boaz did not want Ruth to feel uncomfortable or embarrassed about the situation. She might protest or she might make a big deal out of thanking him and showing her appreciation.

Boaz did not do it for any appreciation. He did not do it to impress her. He acted solely for her wellbeing. It was the right thing to do.

Application for today:

It's not always necessary to tell people what you did or will do for them.

Have you ever done something for someone and not told them? How did that make you feel? Jesus exhorted His disciples to give in such a way that the RIGHT HAND does not know what the LEFT HAND is doing. Give it in secret, the Father will see and reward you.

Matthew 6:3

“But when you give alms, do not let the right hand know what you left hand is doing.”

Means to:

- 1)do it quietly without drawing attention to oneself**
- 2)have pure motives**
- 3)think about how it feels**
- 4)you will reap a reward from God**

Boaz's communication shows us what's in his heart---He talks a lot about the Lord.

In verse 4---Boaz greets his workers with “The Lord be with you.” In return his workers would answer by saying, “May the Lord bless you.”

Ruth 2:12...Boaz said to Ruth

“May the Lord repay you for what you have done. Lord the God of Isreal, under whose wings you have come to take refuge”

Boaz takes the initiative to give Ruth a blessing and talk about the Lord. His speech is filled with references to God. He thought a lot about the Lord and looked at everything through a spiritual lens.

Luke 6:45

“Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.”

What a person enjoys talking about reveals the secret meditations of the heart.

Application for today:

What do your words reveal about you and your focus? Are they on things of God or something else---worldly things?

Boaz is a great communicator. He has a kind attitude and is gracious with every conversation. His words are seasoned with salt and give grace to those who hear.

Colossians: 4:6

“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”

Ruth 2:11-12

Boaz replied, “I’ve been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband---how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with people you did not know before. MAY the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Isreal under whose wing you have come to take refuge.”

Boaz was a businessman---a farm owner with many workers and reapers. He was very rich and had authority with many people. But he does not cut his time or conversations short.

Instead, he extends a lovely blessing to Ruth. Boaz is a very good encourager.

He says many positive words, to build Ruth up. He first comments positively on her character before ending with the blessing.

Ruth may have felt lonely, destitute, discouraged and tired. However, after her conversation with Boaz---it’s almost sure that she felt much better and uplifted.

Application for today:

We too should have the goal to always let people feel uplifted and better. Help them to be more encouraged after our conversation with them. Do you strive to encourage people---when you talk to them?

Ephesians 4:29

“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, that only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion that it may give grace to those who hear.”

This is how Ruth’s GLEANING DAY went:

She gets there before daylight. Ruth follows behind the workers, cutting down the chaff of baily with a curved knife called a “sickle.” She then would collect several chaffs and tie them into a bundle. This makes it easier to carry. She takes the bundles to the threshing room floor. The threshing room is a room built with 2 solid walls and 2 empty frames or no wood on 2 walls. On a hill with good air patterns or air flow. (Note of interest---The threshing floor was and is used in the daily agricultural lives of the men and women who harvest.) The floor was a flat, smooth surface. This was used to separate the grains from the chaff. It was usually done by animals walking or laying down on the chaff. This would

crush or break the sheaves of grains on the floor. If no animals were available people would manually use heavy sticks to break the sheaves apart. As a result, the grains would be separated from the husks.

The mixture remained on the threshing floor for the **winnowing** process. In the morning or evening the breeze would blow more strongly. Ruth would take the winnowing fork with broad prongs and pick up a pile of chaff and grain and toss it into the air. The heavy grains fell directly to the floor. While the chaff was blown away into another pile away from the good grain. Then she would pick up the grain and pack it for the trip home to Naomi. This was a long hard back breaking day—to say the very least.

Threshing is a crucial step in grain harvesting because it helps to separate the valuable edible part of the grain from the rest of the plant material.

Winnowing is effective in separating the chaff from the grain. You must understand wind patterns and flow. Both processes are essential steps in preparing grains for consumption and has been used for centuries in farming. Today farmers have machines for the process.

Now Ruth is ready for her walk home. Even after a hard long day, Ruth makes a meal for Naomi. We see Ruths sweat, selfless nature. She is truly a very kind and caring daughter-

in-law. If only every mother/daughter-in-law would treat each other this way. Even in those times this was not the norm.

Naomi observes that Ruth had someone show her special favor-----from Naomi's comment we can infer that a person would not normally gather so much from the gleaming in one day.

While Ruth may not have realized the special favor that Boaz was showing her, Naomi immediately did.

They decided that Ruth would keep gleaning from Boaz's field for the rest of the harvest. Naomi rightly concluded that Ruth would be safe there.

Boaz is truly a man of God. In many ways, he is a man with many Christian values and actions. He wants to be a good person. Thus, Ruth will be safe in his fields and in danger elsewhere.

In the same way, we are safe in Jesus arms.

Jehovah, the true God of whom Naomi and her family had spoken---**we have today.**

****Each of us has a choice of which "gods" we will worship in our lives. The only true God, the Almighty God whose son is Jesus Christ, tells us He is the only way.**

Naomi attributes her trouble and problems to God. She is deeply depressed because of her great losses—2 sons and

husband. But Ruths unconditional love shows her, in time how God loves unconditionally. True friendship shows this kind of acceptance. Ruth does not scold Naomi or try to change her. Ruth accepts Naomi and stands beside her---- exactly what a friend needs to do.

Application for today:

How does your words, thoughts and actions reflect your Christian Walk with Jesus?

What words would you use to describe Chapter 2 of Ruth.

RUTH CHAPTER 2

THIS IS MY WISH AND PRAYER FOR YOU

DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER

Please give you comfort on difficult days,
Smiles when sadness intrudes,
Rainbows to follow the clouds,
Laughter for the mouth to speak and keep,
Sunsets to warm your heart,
Hugs when spirits sag,
Beauty for your eyes to see,
Friendship to brighten your being,
Faith so that you can believe,
Confidence for when you doubt,
Courage to know yourself,
Patience to accept the truth,
Love to complete your life,
Grace accepts all of this.

Amen

THE MUSTARD SEED

FAITH



MATTHEW 17:20-21

“Jesus said, for surely, I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, move from here to there, and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”

This verse signifies that even a tiny amount of faith can be powerful enough to accomplish great things.

The mustard seed is one of the smallest seeds known.

It is used as a metaphor for the potential of faith to grow and bear fruit, even from the smallest beginning.

It highlights faith, however small, can overcome seemingly unsurmountable obstacles when directed toward God.

The **MUSTARD SEED PARABLE** in the Bible, shows how a tiny seed can grow into a large tree, representing how small faith, can lead to significant spiritual growth.



PRAYER FOR RUTH CHAPTER 2

Dear Lord, I pray that everyone here has their mustard seed faith grow into a large, beautiful tree, with strong branches that support your light and word in their life.



Thank you for your lessons that the Bible has in it---so that we can continually be learning how to live a good Christian life, even with all its ups and downs.

Help us to see you in all situations that are good and difficult.

Thank you for your love, grace and mercy.

Forgive us for our sins and help us to look at all things with a **spiritual lens.**

In Jesus precious name I pray....Amen