

# Let's Worship God

16th-21st October 2023

Ruth

A photograph of a golden wheat field at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow across the sky and the field. The wheat stalks are in the foreground, some in sharp focus and others blurred. The word "Ruth" is written in a large, white, elegant cursive script across the center of the image.

*Ruth*

# Ruth

## **Monday - Ruth 2:17-19 - Beating Out The Grain**

Ruth had been out since the early morning, and next she took all that she has gleaned, and she has to beat it. It needs to be beaten or threshed so that the grain comes apart from the stalk and that the chaff can be separated off. Once she's beaten it, she would have thrown it up into the air, and the evening breeze would have carried off the chaff and the grain would have fallen onto the threshing floor. This would have taken her quite a bit of time. When she returned home Naomi was amazed because Ruth has come back with an ephah of barley, which would be 30 to 40 pounds of barley.

This is the result of Boaz's grace to them. He has supplied their every need and exceedingly abundantly above all that they could ask or even think. Boaz's generosity is a picture to us of Christ's generosity. He provides such a rich provision, and it is there for the taking. But there can't be a laziness or an idleness on our part. The blessings are provided by grace. We are unworthy of them, but nevertheless, we're to receive them by faith, a faith that works. The Scripture is like a field ripe for the harvest. We're simply to go out and glean. We're not to be lazy when it comes to reading the Scriptures. You have to seek to find that portion which is of most use to you in your life, to seek to see how it applies to you at this time, and to take away the promise that is suitable to your affliction.

We hear the Word of God often. But are we threshing it? Are we thinking upon it? Are we doing the hard work to find the grain that we need? Or are we just listening but not to profit? You see, we're to hear the Word, but also be doers of it. Therefore, it's necessary that we meditate upon the rich harvest that the Lord provides. Just as Naomi would have stored away all this grain so that she could grind enough for each day, so, too, we should store away God's Word in our heart to memorize it, so that it's there for us when we need it.

### **Questions**

1. How much barley did Ruth glean?
2. How should we listen to the Word of God?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that we would glean and thresh the Word of God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

“Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried.” Ruth 1:17a

**Praise: Psalm 35 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# Ruth

## **Tuesday - Ruth 2:19-20 - The Kinsman Redeemer**

The Hebrew word that Naomi uses to describe Boaz has three components to it. It means someone who is closely related to you, next of kin, if you like, a kinsman. It also includes in it the idea of redemption, a redeemer, and then thirdly, an avenger, someone to take vengeance and to plead your case on your behalf. There were four circumstances in which this kinsman redeemer would act. First, as we read in Leviticus 25, if you were reduced to poverty, and you had to sell your land or your house, the kinsman redeemer could buy it back. The second circumstance, and again it was in Leviticus 25, was if you were in poverty and you had to sell yourself into slavery, the kinsman redeemer could come along and buy you back. The third circumstance is in Numbers 25. The kinsman of a victim was entitled to seek vengeance. And then fourthly, if there was a lawsuit regarding you, your near relative would pursue it to its conclusion.

In the kinsman redeemer we see something of the Lord Jesus Christ. It's not simply that He pays the price, that He satisfies divine justice by laying down His life and by shedding His blood. There is also the element of a close relation, a family member. The Lord Jesus Christ took on human flesh in order to do these very things. If our inheritance was in our own hands, would we not be liable to lose it? The kinsman redeemer ensures that the inheritance never passes from one tribe into another. He ensures that it stays with us, that it belongs to us. Although we have been set free from sin, yet sometimes we do not stand firm. Left to ourselves we would fall back under the yoke of bondage. But the kinsman redeemer ensures that we do not become slaves to the evil one. As we live in our world today, we can be laughed at and mocked. There are many people through the world who are persecuted for their faith. Our kinsman avenger doesn't turn a blind eye to these things. He will avenge. Justice will be done. When Naomi hears the name Boaz she is thrilled to her heart because there is hope that their fortunes may be restored. When you and I hear the name Jesus, should we not rejoice in our hearts?

### **Question**

1. What is a kinsman redeemer, and how is Christ our kinsman redeemer?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Give thanks that Christ is our kinsman redeemer.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

“Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried.” Ruth 1:17a

**Praise: Psalm 36 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# Ruth

## **Wednesday - Ruth 2:21-23 - Stay Close**

Naomi emphasizes again the very point that Boaz had made - stay close to the women. Follow his instructions carefully. Do exactly what he says. And Ruth did it. She was diligent. The barley and wheat harvest were one after the other, six to seven weeks from late April to early June. And for all those days Ruth went out diligently gleaning. Six days she laboured and did all her work. And the 7th was a Sabbath to the Lord her God. She went out with the young women.

In this we see the jealousy of Christ for His bride. We often think of jealousy as being a bad word. But there's a form of jealousy that is right. It's jealousy for that thing which you have a claim to, that thing which belongs to you by right. God is jealous particularly for his worship. The worship of God should be pure, it should be according to the Scriptural commands. That's why it matters how we worship God. The Lord is rightly jealous for his worship and Christ is rightly jealous for his bride.

As we live our lives, we should be aware of that jealousy of Christ for us, that fullness of his love, that he wants our full obedience at every point and at every turn, in the small things as well as the big things. That there's no point of law or doctrine too small or inconsequential, that we can turn aside from it and live as we like. We must follow completely.

Boaz here was so gracious to Ruth, but he had given her a specific instruction - stay with my young women. Ruth did the right thing in following his instructions completely, right down to the very letter. Dear friends, can we fault Christ and his grace to us? Is there anything lacking? Is there anything that you need that you have not received or that is not available to you? If Christ has been so gracious to us, then ought we not to follow his very commandments to the very letter? And may he grant us grace so to do.

### **Questions**

1. What command does Boaz give Ruth?
2. Does our worship belong to God or us?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray that we would carefully obey our Saviour.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

“Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried.” Ruth 1:17a

**Praise: Psalm 37 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



# Ruth

## Thursday - Ruth 3:1-7 - A Risky Plan

Naomi wants Ruth to have long term security, and that can only come with a husband. So Naomi proposes a risky strategy. It not only risky, but it is potentially foolish. It's open to being construed in all sorts of different ways. But Boaz is their kinsman redeemer. And therefore Naomi seeks to entrust Ruth to him. But the problem is that Boaz didn't have an obligation to marry Ruth. In Old Testament law if a man had a wife, and if he died before he could give her children so he could not perpetuate his name, then his brother would have to arise and take his place. It was important to ensure the land stayed in the tribe for the inheritance rights. But Boaz wasn't obligated to that. He wasn't that close of a relative. He wasn't a brother of Mahlon. Yet here Naomi is telling Ruth to cast herself upon his mercy.

Naomi tells her to wash and anoint herself and put on her cloak. The idea here is that Ruth is to put away her mourning. She's not to act like the grieving widow anymore. She's to signify that she is prepared to move on. And so she does. She's to go to the threshing floor. When Boaz is asleep, she's to uncover his feet and wait and see what he will tell her to do. It's a very risky strategy. It's not inconceivable that she would be mistaken for a prostitute. So either someone else is going to think she is a harlot, or Boaz himself might look at her and think that she's a harlot and reject her because of that. Or even worse, Boaz would accept her as a harlot. Or Boaz recognises the intended meaning and shows favour to her.

Why was Boaz even at the threshing floor at nighttime? Probably Boaz had worked hard, it's late, and it seems pointless for him to go back into the city. It's better for him to lie here and wait until morning, and then he can get up and continue with his work early. Also, it's got the advantage that he can guard his grain so that no thief or animal can come and take it. He's not drunk. He simply is well satisfied.

### Questions

1. Why was Naomi's strategy risky?
2. Why was Naomi hopeful it would turn out well?

### Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the mercy of God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

"Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried." Ruth 1:17a

**Praise: Psalm 38 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# Ruth

## Friday - Ruth 3:8-13 - A Marriage Proposal

Boaz cries out in verse nine - "Who are you?" Ruth responds with these lovely words: "I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer." It was a clear picture, a clear proposal of marriage. Protect me, keep me warm, take me under your wing. We see her humility. She doesn't come as Boaz's equal. She comes as a woman making a marriage proposal, which is unusual enough even in our generation. But she comes as a much younger woman and also one of a different social class. Boaz is an older man who is a noble man. He was a man who sat at the gate with the elders of the city; he was a man who had a say in the administration of the city. He was a man who had harvesters who worked under him. Ruth is a widow of the poorest in Bethlehem. Here she is coming, asking him to marry her. She asks him take responsibility for her. Give me security. Why? Because you are a close relative. You are my kinsman redeemer. You've already shown to me kindness. Show to me this further act of kindness.

Boaz responds with a blessing. This is a man who delights in blessing people. He says in the end Ruth is showing even more kindness than at the beginning. She has not gone after the young men, whether poor or rich. Ruth was an attractive woman. She was young, she was eligible, she could have had her pick of all the young men if she had wanted. But she hasn't done this. She has gone to the close relative of her mother-in-law.

Boaz is willing to help. But in verse twelve he admits that there is a spanner in the works. There's someone more closely related than he is. There is someone who is first in line to perform this duty. Now Boaz could have said go and ask him. But Boaz doesn't do that. Rather, Boaz is saying, I will sort this whole matter out. You don't have to concern yourself about it anymore.

## Questions

1. How did Ruth show humility in this situation?
2. How did Boaz respond?

## Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would have a humble heart.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

## Memory Verse

"Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried." Ruth 1:17a

**Praise: Psalm 39 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



# Ruth

## **Saturday - Ruth 3:14-18 - A Picture of Christ**

Once again, Boaz is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. Boaz provides for Ruth's security and welfare. So too, in a spiritual sense, the Lord Jesus Christ does this for us. Notice that you can have this security and you can have this welfare even before this day is over, if you want it. The Lord Jesus Christ will fulfill the whole transaction. He will sort the whole business, and he will bring it to its conclusion so that you can be secure and well for all your days, if you only will come to him this day as Ruth did in verse 9. If we would only come to Christ like that, with humility, with faith, well, then it will all be sorted for us, and we will have security and peace. Should we not come to Christ in humility as a servant? Should we not come, recognizing that we have no right to ask him for any favours, that we have sinned against him so often from our earliest days that there is no reason that we can conjure up in our imagination why he should take us under his wings and provide for us security and peace? We come in humility. We come confessing our sin, recognizing our shame and our guilt, saying, where else can I turn but to you? We come asking him to take us under his wing. The Lord Jesus Christ is willing to take us under his wing, as a husband would take a wife, as a great, noble husband would take an unworthy wife, one who is widowed and poor and unable to care for herself. How do we know that he is willing? The Lord Jesus Christ took on flesh that he could become a kinsman redeemer for his people. If you recognize your insecurity and that you lack welfare, as Naomi recognized here at the start of the chapter, where else can you go but to a kinsman Redeemer? The Lord Jesus Christ is willing to fulfill everything that is required. You need not worry. Before this night is over, it will be concluded, if only you'll go to Him. What excuse can you give to that? If He is willing to sort it, will you not go to Him? He's announced his intentions. He is a kinsman redeemer to us, and He is willing to save.

### **Question**

1. How is Boaz like Christ?
2. How should we come to Christ?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

"Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried." Ruth 1:17a

**Praise: Psalm 40 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that  
Ezra read from  
the book of the Law  
day after day  
and that  
the people of God  
were filled with joy!**

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