

“Boaz Was a Worthy Man”
Ruth 2:1-7

*“May he (Boaz) be blessed by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead.”
(Ruth 2:20a)*

“But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness’....For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

- *“Now Naomi had a relative of her husband’s, a worthy man, of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.”*
 - The name Boaz means “strength”. In Israel’s culture, the family unit had spiritual (Deuteronomy 6:6-9), social (Deuteronomy 25:5-10), and economical (Leviticus 19:11) responsibility. These responsibilities went beyond the immediate family to the wider family/tribe (Judah/Israel/sojourner) as well.
 - God’s providence (God seeing to it that things happen in a certain way for a certain purpose) is seen again in the book of Ruth (famine, death, the famine ending, Orpah returning to Moab and Ruth following Yahweh) in Ruth ending up in the fields of Boaz (Romans 11:33-36; Ruth 2:20).
 - *God’s providence is expressed to us in time and space through our real choices, decisions, and responsibilities.*

- *“And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, ‘Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor...’”*
 - Ruth takes advantage of the laws of Leviticus 19:9-10 (Deuteronomy 8:7-8). Ruth has no issue taking this position of humility. Humility always comes before honor; we must be willing to walk in the humility of our circumstances. So often we have the attitude of “I’m too good for that.”

*“The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor. Before destruction a man’s heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor. One’s pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble His way. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so at the proper time He may exalt you.”
(Proverbs 15:33;18:12;29:23; Psalm 25:9; Luke 14:11; 1 Peter 5:6)*

- We are always “needy persons” in our relationship with God. As “needy persons” we are to be sensitive to the needs of others (James 2:14-17; 1 John 3:17-18; 1 Timothy 5:8).
- *“And behold Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, ‘The LORD be with you!’ And they answered, ‘The LORD bless you.’”*
 - We see in this portion of Scripture a beautiful picture of a master/servant relationship. We see that true blessing from God was desired from and for both parties (Numbers 6:23-26; Psalm 129:8). Mutual respect in light of respect for the Lord, is an example of godliness in a master/servant relationship (Colossians 3:22-4:1).
 - The time of harvest was a time of great joy (Leviticus 23:14; Deuteronomy 17:14-17) especially in light of the famine that they had experienced (Ruth 1:1).
- *“She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.”*
 - Cultural and religious discrimination exists in the Bible, but never a racial or ethnic discrimination (Acts 17:25-26; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18). Ruth, as a Moabitess, was welcomed as a covenant member of the family of Yahweh (Ruth 1:16-17). The issue was always a danger of serving

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Worship: How Great Thou Art (Various Artists) As The Deer (Various Artists)

Service Times: Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;
Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

other gods, therefore forsaking the all inclusive way of life as God's children (Deuteronomy 7:3-4 & 6 & 11).

- *“So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest.”*
 - Discontentment can come from the idea that life/the christian life should be easy (Psalm 34:19). From a biblical worldview there is no such thing as “workless victims” of society (2 Thessalonians 3:6,10-14). Difficulty is what brings the people of God closer to one another and to God (1 Corinthians 12:26; Psalm 34:17-19).