

Trusting God's Providence and Finding His Favor

The story of Ruth continues with a glimpse into God's divine provision. Though Naomi had returned to Bethlehem feeling empty and bitter, she and Ruth were about to experience God's grace in a powerful way. This chapter reminds us that even in difficult seasons, God is orchestrating events for our good.

God's Providence in Unexpected Places

Naomi and Ruth had no resources, no protection, and no certainty about the future. But instead of waiting idly, Ruth took the initiative:

"Let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor." (Ruth 2:2)

Gleaning was God's way of providing for the poor. Farmers were commanded to leave the edges of their fields unharvested and allow the poor to gather what remained after the workers had passed through (Leviticus 19:9-10). Ruth, a Moabite and a foreigner, was willing to work hard and trust that God would lead her to a place of favor.

And as the Bible says, ***"It just so happened"*** that Ruth found herself in the field of Boaz—who was a close relative of Naomi's late husband. But this wasn't just coincidence; **this was God's providence.**

Personal Application:

- Sometimes, when we don't know what's next, the best thing we can do is **take the next step in faith**. Ruth didn't wait for provision to come to her—she went out and worked.
- When we walk in obedience, God guides us—even when we don't realize it. The opportunities, relationships, and resources that *"just so happen"* to come our way are often His unseen hand at work.

Finding Favor in the Eyes of God and Others

Boaz noticed Ruth immediately. Not only was she hardworking, but she had a reputation for kindness and faithfulness. He showed her kindness, told her to glean only in his fields, and even commanded his workers to protect her.

Ruth was overwhelmed by his generosity and asked:

"Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?" (Ruth 2:10)

Boaz responded:

"It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law... and how you have left your father and mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before." (Ruth 2:11)

Boaz recognized Ruth's faithfulness, and he knew that she had placed her trust in the Lord. He blessed her with these words:

"The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge." (Ruth 2:12)

Personal Application:

- Ruth's kindness and faithfulness **made a way for God's favor** to be shown to her. Our actions, even when unnoticed by people, are never unseen by God.
- Boaz's words remind us that when we trust in God, we find **refuge under His wings**. God is our protector and provider, just as Boaz became a protector for Ruth.

God's Provision Comes in Many Forms

Boaz didn't just offer Ruth kindness in words—he also **provided for her needs**. He invited her to eat with his workers, instructed them to leave extra grain for her, and ensured her safety.

At the end of the day, Ruth had gathered **about a bushel of grain**—far more than she expected! When she brought it home, Naomi was amazed.

"Where did you glean today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one who took notice of you!" (Ruth 2:19)

When Ruth told her about Boaz, Naomi's heart filled with hope. She realized that Boaz was not just a generous man—he was a **kinsman-redeemer**, someone who had the right to restore their family's name and inheritance.

Naomi, who had returned to Bethlehem feeling empty, was now seeing **God's hand of provision**.

Personal Application:

- **God's blessings often come through people.** Boaz was a vessel of God's provision for Ruth and Naomi. Likewise, we should look for opportunities to bless others.
- **God provides more than we expect.** Ruth was simply hoping to gather enough food to survive, but she left with abundance. When we trust in God's timing, He often gives us more than we could imagine.
- **God restores our hope.** Naomi started this journey feeling bitter and broken, but as she saw God at work, her faith was reignited.

Conclusion: Trusting God's Plan

Ruth's story reminds us that **God is always working, even in the smallest details**. She thought she was simply gathering grain, but God was leading her to **a place of blessing, protection, and purpose**.

Just like Ruth:

- **We must take steps of faith, even when we don't see the full picture.**

- **We must remain faithful, knowing that God sees and rewards our obedience.**
- **We must trust that God is guiding us, even when things seem uncertain.**

If you feel like Naomi—empty, bitter, or without hope—remember that God is not finished with your story. His provision, favor, and blessings may be just around the corner.

Let's place ourselves under His wings and trust that He is leading us to something greater than we can see.