

God will provide for your needs

(Ruth 2:1-23, Ex. 22:22, Deut. 14:28-29, Ps. 68:5)

I. Intro

- A. Where we have been. Israel's unfaithfulness (Time of the Judges) – our unfaithfulness; God's faithfulness towards us – 2 Timothy 2:13 “if we are faithless, he remains faithful – for he cannot deny himself. Though God requires a response from us, his faithfulness doesn't depend on our (thank God!).
- B. God brought them low, but they followed him and now, he as we'll see today, he is going to move and provide richly!
- C. I hope you see God's provision through this series. God is faithful. He has not promised to provide all your every want but your needs.

II. Boaz - “in him is strength”

- A. Probably 45-55 years old, “a worthy man” - Lit a mighty man of valor (Gideon)(Judges 6:12, 11:1) The author of Ruth is beginning to paint a picture here for us of who Boaz is. Setting the stage for their meeting.
- B. Nothing is known about his faults – type of Christ.

III. God's provision for others (James 1:27) and you (Matt 6:33)

A. Caring for the poor

- i. **Ex. 22:22** - “*you shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child*”; **Deut. 14:28-29** “*...the fatherless and the widow, who are within you towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.*” **Ps. 68:5** “*Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.*”
- ii. With poverty comes shame and I want to show you how God setup a way for the poor's provision while helping them work and keep their dignity.
- iii. **Gleaning – The Law: Lev. 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*” (Also **Deut 24:19**)
- iv. Spending every last dollar I have on me, when God is STILL calling us to let the poor glean from our fields – His care for the poor is no less today.

B. Being faithful with what God has given you

- i. **vv 2-3** “*happened to come to the... field [of] Boaz*” - Happened? Ha. We don't know how Ruth knows about gleaning, I'm assuming Naomi told her. She took initiative and worked hard (**vv 4-7**)!
- ii. So often we are self-centered in that we desire for God to take care of me and how will God meet my needs. Instead we should recognize that God IS providing for us and seek to meet the needs of those around us As Ruth did. **Matt. 6:33-34** “*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*”
- iii. Later in chapter we see that God provided more than enough!
- iv. Don't deny that you have legitimate needs, but God is faithful. Your needs don't relieve you of the commands of Scripture. Where do you find yourself in this story? Ruth or Boaz? Or at all?

IV. God pursuing you – the foreigner vv. 8-16

- A. Do we see at all that Ruth was begging for his attention? No, God pursued her through Boaz. Remember **v 2**? She worked faithfully and did find favor.
- B. **v.10** “*Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner*” Favor – OT equiv of grace; Beautiful picture of our calling to salvation and God's sovereignty.

C. **vv 14-16** Going above just the letter of the law to bless.

D. **v. 17 & 7** – She worked all day – Haiti; Pursue Christ and Work!

V. God is taking care of you! He uses faithful men and women

A. **v. 20** “May he (Boaz) be blessed by the Lord, whose kindness (God's!) has not forsaken the living or the dead” Naomi in response to hearing of God's providence in their lives.

B. **v. 21-23** God's protection and provision during a difficult time for them.

VI. **Conclusion**

A. Naomi left Moab to return to Israel. Ruth left everything to follow this woman. We have the benefit of looking back at this account that Scripture gives us and seeing the sovereignty of God in all this. Luck?

B. Closing points- what to walk away with.

C. Call to response