

THE GOSPEL OF RUTH

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RUTH 2: A Culture of Kindness

Warm-Up Question:

Were there any outsiders you had trouble being kind to growing up? What type of people do you most struggle to be kind to now?

READ: Ruth ?

I. The Kindness of God: EXPERIENCED

- ▶ Discuss what you know about the history of the Moabites with God's people. What must have Ruth felt as she entered into Judah, into Naomi's home town?
- ▶ In what ways was Ruth vulnerable and even in danger going into Boaz's field?
- ▶ Read Deuteronomy 10:17-19, Jeremiah 22:15-16, and Luke 4:18-19. Talk about the heart of God. Share who and what God loves.
- ▶ How have you experienced such kindness from God or others in life or recently?

II. The Kindness of God: EXTENDED

- ▶ Point out the several ways you see God's sovereign provision for Ruth in her hopeless position through the kindness of Boaz?
- ▶ Read Prov. 14:21 & 31, Micah 6:8, Luke 3:10-11, and James 1:27. How are God's heart of and acts of kindness to translate into the lives of his people?
- ▶ Who are the people around us in Citrus County that God would care about like this and want us to care about?
- ▶ What are some of the biggest barriers you personally have in feeling this or actually living it out in daily life?
- ▶ What are some practical steps you could take to meet, know, serve, and love some of the vulnerable, marginalized, or poor here in Citrus County?

What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?

*"The second greatest lesson of this passage has to do with the kindness of God. He rewards seekers, whether they seek resolutely as Ruth did or in perplexity like Boaz or whether, like Naomi, they barely have the energy or desire to seek at all. In particular, those like Ruth who seek refuge in the God of Israel will find, to their great surprise, that he has already been seeking them.
— Barry G. Webb*

For Prayer Time:

- ▶ For your heart and our church to be more like the heart of God for the poor and vulnerable.
- ▶ For opportunities to serve and show kindness to the poor and vulnerable in Citrus County.



SEVEN RIVERS
C H U R C H

A Culture of Kindness

Ruth 2

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Scripture Passages Used:

Ruth 2:1 Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. **2** 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." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." **3** So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech. **4** And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered, "The LORD bless you." **5** Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" **6** And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab." **7** She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest."

Ruth 2:8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. **9** Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn." **10** Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?" **11** But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. **12** The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!" **13** Then she said, "I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants."

Ruth 2:14 And at mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. **15** When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. **16** And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her."

Ruth 2:17 So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. **18** And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied. **19** And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz." **20** And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!" Naomi also said to her, "The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers." **21** And Ruth the Moabite said, "Besides, he said to me, 'You shall keep close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'" **22** And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted." **23** So she kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

Deuteronomy 10:17 - For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

Jeremiah 22:15-16 - Do you think you are a king because you compete in cedar? Did not your father eat and drink and do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him. He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know me declares the LORD.

Luke 4:18-19 (from Is. 61:1-2) - "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Micah 6:8 - He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Proverbs 14:21, 31 - Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor. 31 Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.

Luke 3:10-11 - And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" 11 And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise."

James 1:27 - Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.