

Lesson 2

Ruth 2.1-23

Read **Ruth 2.1-23**

1. First, a reflective question...What general thoughts and impressions pop into your mind when you hear or read the phrase, "God's Law," or, "Law of God?"
2. Look at **Ruth 2.3-4**. "...she *happened*..." We know, and good Hebrew theology knew, that there is no such thing as just 'happening' into a circumstance. We, and they, knew there is no such thing as chance (**Prov 16.33**.) What do you think the author is drawing our attention to with this irony?
3. Do you believe that the LORD is kind? Do you believe that kindness is part of His very nature? Do you expect God to be kind to you in Christ?
4. We see an act of God's kindness written into His Law. Look at **Deut 25.5** for an understanding of the kinsman redeemer concept. Then read **Ruth 2.20** and note what's going on here. What's happening?
5. **Ruth 2.20** again – In all of her distress, what has Naomi forgotten about God?

6. Much of this story is about redemption. Look at **Eph 2.14-15**. Coupled with Ruth and Naomi's story, what does Biblical redemption look like?

7. Look at **Philippians 2.5-8**. Note some parallels between Jesus' character and actions and Boaz'.

8. Look at **Deut 23.2-4**. Picture yourself as part of the original readers of this story – an Israelite sometime after King David. What might you be asking yourself about Ruth being so readily welcomed by Boaz?
 - a. Now look at **Ruth 2.10-12**. What is Ruth asking? What is Boaz' answer?

 - b. So – do we have salvation (redemption) by works? Note carefully **v. 12**.

9. Think carefully about the history of Moab, of Israel, of redemption...who receives God's unmerited favor – grace? What lesson is the OT teaching us right in the middle of itself? Who does God's redemption come to (again – note **v. 12**)?

10. Look at **James 2.14-17** and **Micah 6.8**. From these passages, what does faith look like? How do both Ruth and Boaz model that?

a. Look at **Ruth 2.10**. What else does faith look like? What's is Ruth asking?

b. What makes a person like this (**Tit 2.11-14**)?