

Ruth 2**10-16-05*****“Bringing in the Sheaves!”*****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. Harvey Update:
- 1.2. **Last week** - 1:19 “*excited*” = stirred, better translation.
 - 1.2.1. □ 1 □ – “Pertaining to being in a surprised state, possibly implying dismay over a situation, with a relatively large group of people not fully understanding a situation and so make inquiries about it.”¹
- 1.3. **Boaz** wasn’t even mentioned in ch.1, & Ruth doesn’t even know he exists. But once he is introduced things move swiftly.
 - 1.3.1. In ch.2 Ruth is in his **field**.
 - 1.3.2. In ch.3 Ruth is at his **feet**.
 - 1.3.3. In ch.4 Ruth is in his **family**. (Vance Havner)
- 1.4. **OUTLINE: Living in Faith; Living in Grace; Living in Hope.**

2. BRINGING IN THE SHEAVES!

- 2.1. **LIVING IN FAITH!** (1-3)
- 2.2. (1:23) **Barley Harvest**(March/April - 7 weeks) It always precedes **Wheat Harvest** (3rd week of April to 2nd week of June).
- 2.3. (1) Kind of a general comment on it all.
- 2.4. **Boaz** is finally introduced –
 - 2.4.1. He loves God; loves his fellow man; wealthy; kind; & single!
 - 2.4.2. Folks he’s “*the most eligible Bachelor in Bethlehem!*”
- 2.5. (2) Though grieving, Naomi & Ruth knew life had to go on.
- 2.6. Ruth, though a young believer knew she was permitted to **glean** in the fields during the harvest.
 - 2.6.1. **Read** - Lev.19:9,10.
 - 2.6.2. She trusted the God who is concerned about **widows & the poor**.
 - 2.6.3. Deut.10:18 “He defends the cause of the fatherless and the **widow**, and loves the **alien**, giving him food and clothing.”
 - 2.6.3.1. And God did not fail her!

¹Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament)* (electronic ed.) (HGK2101). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

- 2.7. Ruth isn't afraid of work...even menial work.
- 2.7.1. This was **Israel's welfare program** & a good one, it made those who could work, work for their food.
- 2.7.1.1. There is nothing wrong with using a welfare program, that's what they are there for, but a **shame** on those who **abuse it**.
- 2.7.2. Her new job was menial, tiring, & probably degrading, yet it was done faithfully & diligently.
- 2.7.3. **Q: What's your attitude when it comes to doing menial tasks?**
- 2.8. I don't see anywhere in Scripture that God rewards lazy people! – He seems to guide, bless, use, & give direction to, those diligent in life's business.
- 2.8.1. Proverbs 12:24 **"The hand of the diligent will rule, But the lazy man will be put to forced labor."**
- 2.8.2. Proverbs 13:4 **"The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich."**
- 2.8.3. Be faithful to the *"task at hand"* & you will find direction.
- 2.9. (3) **She happened to come** - **"Is it fate or is it providence?"** **"Is it luck or is it God?"**
- 2.9.1. **Not**, *"the Lord showed me this field."*
- 2.9.1.1. Interesting, it seems so *natural*. – **Yet**, if she's "1 field off" tell the shepherds in the field at Christ's birth they might as well stay out in field!
- 2.9.2. It seems that Ruth prefers **not** to make such a distinction.
- 2.9.3. Yet Naomi immediately blesses the Lord for His Kindness in it(20).
- 2.9.4. Apparent *"chance happening"* was overruled by God for blessing.
- 2.9.5. **Q: Can you think of similar experiences in your life?**
- 2.10. **LIVING IN GRACE!** (4-16)
- 2.11. (4) **Old world politeness** - In modern civilization often times employer/employee relationship is *a little* different.
- 2.11.1. Often the relationship is usually a **financial & selfish** relationship.
- 2.11.1.1. **Ex: Safeway** in produce; **"Piece Work"** in the trades.
- 2.11.1.2. **Q: Are your numbers up or down?**
- 2.11.2. Bosses – how is your relationship with your employees?
- 2.11.2.1. **Q: What's your greeting?**
- 2.12. (5) Then he noticed the stranger!
- 2.12.1. **Boaz handled himself as such the gentleman.**
- 2.12.2. It would have been improper for him to address her directly.
- 2.12.3. He doesn't want to infringe on the rights of any man in her life.

- 2.12.4. He wants to seek information on her husband, or her father, or her master, for a girl would never be independent.
- 2.12.5. Only when he finds there is no man responsible for her, only Naomi, whom he presumably knows to be a kinswoman, does he address Ruth directly.
- 2.13. (6,7) Great work ethic – early starter.
- 2.13.1. Maybe Teddy Roosevelt summed it up when he said, “I am on average man, **but I work harder at it than the average man!**”
- 2.14. Determination –
- 2.14.1. Jan Paderewski was asked by a fellow pianist if he could be ready to play a recital on short notice. The famous musician replied, “I am always ready. I have practiced 8 hours daily for 40 years.” The other pianist said, “I wish I had been born with such determination.” Paderewski replied, “We are all born with it. I just used mine.”
- 2.14.1.1. And so, Ruth used hers!
- 2.15. (8,9) Finding out who she is he immediately goes into protection mode.
- 2.15.1. An unprotected young widow would be “fair game”.
- 2.16. (10) I guess you could say *“here was a **Foreigner**, who **Fell on her Face**, because she **Found Favor From a Favored Farmer!**”*
- 2.17. A great question for all of us to ask, “**why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?**”
- 2.18. (11) He’s done his homework on this gal. And praises her for her kindness to Naomi.
- 2.19. Ruth **fully faithful** to her Mother-in-law, what a testimony!
- 2.19.1. **How is a good reputation formed?** – “It is formed by the people who watch us at work/school, in our valley, in church. It comes by consistently living out the qualities you believe in.”
- 2.19.2. **Q: What reputation do you have in our Valley?**
- 2.20. (12) **Under whose wings you have come** –
- 2.20.1. Could refer to the **Angels wingspan** on Mercy seat in the Holy of Holies. (Ex.25:17-22)
- 2.20.2. **Or**, it could refer to a (Zoa)**Zoomorphism**? [comparing a part of God to an aspect of an animal]
- 2.20.2.1. Ps.91:4 “**He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge;**”

- 2.20.3. Being **under His wings** means to be in the place of **security & fellowship** with God.
- 2.21. **Come for refuge** חָסָה (Hāsâ) seek refuge, flee for protection, and thus **figuratively put trust** in (God), **confide, hope** in (God or person).²
 2.21.1. Its used 154 x's in the OT. - It's similar to the NT Faith & belief.
 2.21.2. Ps.2:12 "**Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him**"
- 2.22. (13) **Dedication & Determination** – “**Let me go to the field**”(2); “**Let me glean & gather**”(7); “**Let me find favor**”(13).
- 2.23. (14) **Lunch Date** – Boaz: Kind & hospitable now invites her to sit & join them for lunch.
 2.23.1. As singles, I think the best & “safest” way to get to know someone of the opposite sex is in a group.
 2.23.1.1. And so he fusses over her at the lunchtime picnic.
- 2.24. Interesting just as **Boaz protected & provided** for Ruth before they marry, so **the Lord** did for us.
 2.24.1. And when Jesus is the host no guest goes empty from the table!
- 2.25. (15,16) He instructs his reapers to deliberately leave behind some grain for her.
- 2.26. **LIVING IN HOPE!** (17-23)
- 2.27. (17) **What a hard worker!** – working morning till evening.
 2.27.1. Prov.31:27b she “**does not eat the bread of idleness.**”
 2.27.2. “**It is better to wear out than rust out!**”
- 2.28. (18) A Naomi doggie bag!
- 2.29. (19) Wow, check you out Ruthy! 😊
- 2.30. (20) All of this comes from God’s **favor**(2,13) & kindness(20).
- 2.31. Well, it wasn’t the **bitterness of Naomi**, but the **faithfulness of Ruth** that changed the picture. But now Naomi is able to see this wasn’t happenstance, chance, an accident, coincidence, a fluke or “*the luck of the Irish*”, **this was the hand of God!!!**
 2.31.1. **Chance** is banished from the faith of Christians, for they see **the hand of God** in everything.
 2.31.2. She was led to this field, to come face-to-face w/the one man God had chosen to **redeem her & marry her!**

²Harris, R. L., Harris, R. L., Archer, G. L., & Waltke, B. K. (1999, c1980). *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed.) (Page 307). Chicago: Moody Press.

- 2.31.2.1. **Single ladies – Can God do the same today?**
 2.31.2.1.1. You don't have to strive, engineer, nor manipulate to find the man Gods picked for you.
- 2.31.2.2. **Just be about your *everyday business* like Ruth!**
- 2.31.3. **“Trivial matters of today & tomorrow may involve consequences of the highest importance.” (Spurgeon)**
- 2.32. **The kinsman-redeemer was responsible for protecting the interests of needy members of the extended family.**
 2.32.1. To **provide an heir** for a brother who had died (Deut 25:5-10)
 To **redeem the land** that a poor relative had sold outside the family (Lev.25:25-28)
 To **redeem a relative** who had been **sold into slavery** (Lev.25:47-49)
 To **avenge the killing** of a relative. (Numb35:19-21)
- 2.33. **Naomi *once empty & w/o hope*, was now beginning to see how God might **fill her** again.**
- 2.34. **(21,22) Ruth is a one field woman!**
 2.34.1. She ran the risk of being rude to this **hospitality & kindness**.
 2.34.2. **Our hearts should be to only “*glean*” the corners in our Fathers field than take the “*whole harvest*” from any other.**
- 2.35. **(23) Little did she know that amid the sheaves she would find a **husband**. That he would make her **joint owner** of all those acres. That this poor foreigner would become **ancestor** of the great Messiah!**
 2.35.1. **God is *very good* to those who trust Him & **often surprises us** with “*unlooked for*” blessings.**
- 2.36. **Instead of *living on leftovers*, Ruth became a friend of “*the lord of the harvest*”, who gave her generous gifts.**
 2.36.1. **Can you see in this a picture of what Christ has done for us?**
 2.36.2. **Boaz a type of Christ – Who is **kind** toward us. Has shown us **favor. Protects us, provides** for us.**
- 2.37. **End: Ps.126:5,6**
 2.37.1. **Knowles Shaw**(*the Singing Evangelist*) wrote *Bringing in the Sheaves* in 1874. (Read story)
- 2.38. **Prayer:** Lord, be as **gracious** w/us your servants as you were with Ruth.