

Seeking Redemption
Ruth 2:1-23 / August 31

A) Introduction: Devastation of Naomi’s Family	1:1-5
B) Two of Naomi’s Relatives Deliberate Whether to Support Her	1:6-19a
C Return to Bethlehem in Emptiness and Hopelessness	1:19b-22
D Meeting of Ruth and Boaz	2:1-23
C ¹ Ruth’s Appeal at the Threshing Floor and her Return to Bethlehem in Fullness and Hope	3:1-18
B ¹ Two of Naomi’s Relatives Deliberate Whether to Support Naomi	4:1-12
A ¹ Conclusion: Restoration of Naomi’s Family	4:13-22

D Meeting of Ruth and Boaz 2:1-23

A) Introduction: Ruth Tells Naomi Her Plans to Glean 2:1-2

Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. 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.”

The Favor of God

“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 for the sojourner:	I am the LORD your God.
“You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God:	I am the LORD.
“You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning. You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God:	I am the LORD.
“You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor:	I am the LORD.
“You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself:	I am the LORD. (Leviticus 19:9-18)

B) Ruth Goes Out and Gleans 2:3

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.

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:33-36)

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” (Matthew 2:1-2)

C) Boaz Arrives and Hears About Ruth 2:4-7

And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers,

“The LORD be with you!”

And they answered,

“The LORD bless you.”

Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers,

“Whose young woman is this?”

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.

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.”

The Persistence of Ruth: Seeking the Favor of God

MAN WITH PARALYSIS: Persisting through physical barriers

And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and **they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus**, but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. (Luke 5:18-19)

MAN WITH SICK SERVANT: Persisting through Political barriers

When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, “He is worthy to have you do this for him, for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue.” (Luke 7:3-5)

SINFUL WOMAN: Persisting through Theological barriers

One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, **when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment**, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. (Luke 7:36-38)

WOMAN WITH BLOOD DISORDER: Persisting through Social barriers

And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone. **She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment**, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased. (Luke 8:43-44)

BLIND BEGGAR: Persisting through Economic barriers

As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. And hearing a crowd going by, **he inquired what this meant. They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” And he cried out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”** And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” And Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought to him. And when he came near, he asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me recover my sight.” (Luke 18:35-41)

D) Ruth and Boaz Meet: Boaz's Kindness and Generosity to Ruth 2:8-13

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.
- 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.”

The Lord's Protection: The Lord is My Shepherd

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want / He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters / He restores my soul
He leads me in paths of righteousness / for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, / I will fear no evil,
For you are with me; / your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me / in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; / my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me / all the days of my life,
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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?”

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.
- 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!”

Wings of Protection: Jesus

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him,

“Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.”

And he said to them,

“Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course.

Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.’

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! **How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!** Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’” (Luke 13:31-34)

God’s Salvation to the Outcast

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

“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, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them,

“Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” (Luke 4:16-21)

Wings of Protection: Holy Spirit

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and **he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”** (Matthew 3:13-17)

Wings of Protection: David

To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy. A Miktam of David, when he fled from Saul, in the cave.

1. Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, / for in you my soul takes refuge;
2. **in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,** / till the storms of destruction pass by.
3. I cry out to God Most High, / to God who fulfills his purpose for me.
4. He will send from heaven and save me; / he will put to shame him who tramples on me. Selah
5. God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!
6. My soul is in the midst of lions; / I lie down amid fiery beasts—
7. the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows, / whose tongues are sharp swords.
8. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! / Let your glory be over all the earth!

9. They set a net for my steps; / my soul was bowed down.
10. They dug a pit in my way, / but they have fallen into it themselves. Selah
11. My heart is steadfast, O God, / my heart is steadfast!
12. I will sing and make melody! / Awake, my glory!
13. Awake, O harp and lyre! / I will awake the dawn!
14. I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; / I will sing praises to you among the nations.
15. For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, / your faithfulness to the clouds.
16. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! / Let your glory be over all the earth! (Psalm 57) (Psalm 36:7; 57:1; 61:4; 63:7; 91:4)

Wings of Protection: Moses

On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying,

“Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and **how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.** Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.” (Exodus 19:1-6)

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.”

C¹) Boaz Invites Ruth to Join Him and his Harvesters for a bountiful Meal 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.

Jesus: Passover Meal

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said,

“Take, eat; this is my body.”

And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying,

“Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” (Matthew 26:26-29)

Jesus: Feeding 5000

Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples,

“Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.”

So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said,

“This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!” (John 6:11-14)

Jesus answered them,

“Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ‘Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.’”

Then they said to him,

“What must we do, to be doing the works of God?”

Jesus answered them,

“This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

So they said to him,

“Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

Jesus then said to them,

“Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

They said to him,

“Sir, give us this bread always.”

Jesus said to them,

“I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” (John 6:26-40)

Exodus: Manna from Heaven

Then the Lord said to Moses,

“Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.”

So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel,

“At evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against the Lord. (Exodus 16:4-7)

This is what the Lord has commanded:

“Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.”

And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. **Each of them gathered as much as he could eat.** (Exodus 16:16-18)

Creation: Every Green Plant for Food:

And God said,

“Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.”

And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. (Genesis 1:29-31)

B¹) Ruth Arises and Gleans Again in Boaz's Field 2:15-17

When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying,

- “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and
- do not reproach her.
- And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and
- do not rebuke her.”

So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.

A¹) Conclusion: Ruth Returns to Naomi and Joyfully Tells her all that has Happened 2:18-23

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. 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.”

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**.”

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.’”

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.” 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.

Purchasing back property previously owned by non-family members (Lev 25:25-30)

“The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine. For you are strangers and sojourners with me. And in all the country you possess, you shall allow a **redemption of the land**.

“If your brother becomes poor and sells part of his property, then **his nearest redeemer shall come and redeem what his brother has sold**.

If a man has no one to redeem it and then himself becomes prosperous and finds sufficient means to redeem it, let him calculate the years since he sold it and pay back the balance to the man to whom he sold it, and then return to his property. But if he does not have sufficient means to recover it, then what he sold shall remain in the hand of the buyer until the year of jubilee. In the jubilee it shall be released, and he shall return to his property.

“If a man sells a dwelling house in a walled city, he may redeem it within a year of its sale. For a full year he shall have the right of redemption. If it is not redeemed within a full year, then the house in the walled city shall belong in perpetuity to the buyer, throughout his generations; it shall not be released in the jubilee. But the houses of the villages that have no wall around them shall be classified with the fields of the land. They may be redeemed, and they shall be released in the jubilee. As for the cities of the Levites, the Levites may redeem at any time the houses in the cities they possess. And if one of the Levites exercises his right of redemption, then the house that was sold in a city they possess shall be released in the jubilee. For the houses in the cities of the Levites are their possession among the people of Israel. But the fields of pastureland belonging to their cities may not be sold, for that is their possession forever. (Leviticus 25:23-34)

Purchasing back family members sold into slavery because of poverty (Lev 25:47-55)

“If a stranger or sojourner with you becomes rich, and your brother beside him becomes poor and sells himself to the stranger or sojourner with you or to a member of the stranger’s clan, then after he is sold he may be redeemed.

One of his brothers may redeem him, or his uncle or his cousin may redeem him, or a close relative from his clan may redeem him.

Or if he grows rich he may redeem himself. He shall calculate with his buyer from the year when he sold himself to him until the year of jubilee, and the price of his sale shall vary with the number of years. The time he was with his owner shall be rated as the time of a hired worker. If there are still many years left, he shall pay proportionately for his redemption some of his sale price. If there remain but a few years until the year of jubilee, he shall calculate and pay for his redemption in proportion to his years of service. He shall treat him as a worker hired year by year. He shall not rule ruthlessly over him in your sight.

And if he is not redeemed by these means, then he and his children with him shall be released in the year of jubilee. For it is to me that the people of Israel are servants. They are my servants whom I brought out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God. (Leviticus 25:47-55)

Marrying the wife of your deceased brother (Deut 25:5-10)

- “If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the dead man shall not be married outside the family to a stranger. Her husband’s brother shall go in to her and take her as his wife and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her.
- And the first son whom she bears shall succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.
- And if the man does not wish to take his brother’s wife, then his brother’s wife shall go up to the gate to the elders and say, ‘My husband’s brother refuses to perpetuate his brother’s name in Israel; he will not perform the duty of a husband’s brother to me.’ Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him, and if he persists, saying, ‘I do not wish to take her,’ then his brother’s wife shall go up to him in the presence of the elders and pull his sandal off his foot and spit in his face. And she shall answer and say, ‘So shall it be done to the man who does not build up his brother’s house.’ And the name of his house shall be called in Israel, ‘The house of him who had his sandal pulled off.’ (Deut 25:5-10)