

Ruth 2:3d-17

Boaz enquires about Ruth—2:4-7

- 1) Boaz's dramatic and timely arrival—2:4a
- 2) Boaz's seemingly customary Godward blessing of his workers—2:4b
- 3) Boaz's proper oversight of his harvest as owner—2:5
 - a) To whom does Ruth (a young woman of marriageable age) belong?
 - i) A play on words for servant [*na`ar*] and young woman [*na`arah*]
- 4) The foreman demonstrates proper accountability to his boss Boaz—2:6-7
 - a) Full explanation of **who** Ruth is—2:6
 - b) Full explanation of **what** Ruth has done—2:7 (what she said & how hard she works)

The turning point—2:8-13 (Boaz graciously confirms the foreman's earlier decision)

- 1) Boaz speaks graciously to Ruth, part 1—2:8-10
 - a) Compassionate—2:8a
 - b) Shielding while granting special privileges—2:8b-9b
 - i) Stay on Boaz's property; protecting her from neighboring farmers—2:8b
 - ii) Stay close to the female workers (but not gleaners)—2:9a
 - iii) Stay in the unique place (with the harvesters) Boaz granted to her—2:9b
 - c) Considerate—2:9c
 - d) Ruth's humble response—2:10
 - i) Respectful in action—2:10a
 - ii) Humble in attitude and words—2:10b "*Why have I found favor (cf. 2:2, 13) in your eyes that you should take notice [*nakar*] of me, since I am a foreigner/the unnoticed [*nokriy*]?"*
- 2) Boaz speaks graciously to Ruth, part 2—2:11-13 (explains why he showed Ruth favor)
 - a) He encourages Ruth based upon what he has heard—2:11
 - b) He desires Yahweh to protect and fully provide for Ruth—2:12 (cf. 1:17)
 - i) A figure of speech known as **zoomorphism**. God does not have literal wings!
 - c) Ruth's grateful response—2:13 "*I have found favor (cf. 2:2, 10) in your eyes, my lord,*
 - How does she know she has found favor? She evaluates what Boaz has done.
 - i) *because you have comforted/relieved [*nacham*] me,*
 - ii) *and have spoken to the heart of your lowest female servant [*shiphchah*] (cf. *amah* in 3:9),*
 - (1) *even though I am not (worthy to be) one of your lowest female servants."*

Boaz graciously provides for Ruth—2:14-17

- 1) More kindness—2:14 he personally gave her refreshing food
- 2) Still more kindness—2:15-16 these were exceptional provisions (cf. Leviticus 23:22; Deuteronomy 24:19-22)
 - a) Her physical wellbeing—more food
 - b) Her emotional wellbeing—*and do not embarrass her... Do not rebuke her."*
- 3) God's provision—2:17 through Boaz's extravagant favor/grace and Ruth's hard work
 - a) How much did she gather? @ 3/5 of a bushel (@ 30 pounds or @ 2 5-gallon pails; minimum of a week's worth of grain for 2 people)

Take-home truth:

- Boaz reflects God's image by graciously caring for the needy. Will we?
Boaz demonstrates a responsible love for others. Will we?