

Remnant Life Church

June 24, 2021

Ruth

Pt 2

“Boaz”

Ruth 2:1-9

Ruth, as we know, is dealing with a very difficult situation

- She is a widow
- She is entering a foreign land with her mother-in-law who is also a widow
- The place they are going are long-time enemies of her people – the Moabites
- And this has all happened by her choice
- Not a choice of foolish behavior or wrong-doing, but a choice of love and loyalty

Undoubtedly, both Naomi and Ruth had been crying out to God regarding their circumstances

- And God answered their prayer
- God always answers our prayers!
- But the answer is often not what we wanted, hoped for, or expected
- This is where faith is put into practice in the most intense way

But God answered these two women in a powerful way by bringing them in contact with a man who, in my mind, should be emulated just as much as Joseph, Paul, and Jeremiah.

READ – Ruth 2:1-10

Boaz

- We know little about him outside of what we are told in this account
- We know that he was a “man of standing” (Ruth 2:1)
 - It is the same phrase used to describe Gideon when he is called “a mighty man of valor”
 - Some translations say “mighty warrior” (Judges 6:12)
- The name Boaz means “in him is strength”
 - And that was exactly the type of man that both Ruth and Naomi needed at that time of their lives
 - Likely in contrast to what they had experienced before with their husbands
- Boaz was a man of wealth and honor
 - Those two words are not often seen together
 - Wealth tends to drive the person to gain more wealth any way they can
- He lived in Bethlehem and was of the tribe of Judah (Jacob’s fourth son to Leah)
- Most importantly, he was a relative, or a kinsman, of Elimelech, Naomi’s dead husband
- His life and the story of his goodness became so well known that his name was given to one of the two bronze pillars that stood in front of Solomon’s magnificent temple in Jerusalem (2 Chron 3:17)

What can we determine about who Boaz was from this story?

1. He had faith in God
 - a. One of the first things we notice is that Boaz remained in Bethlehem
 - b. Elimelech and his family left because of the famine
 - c. Boaz stayed
 - i. You may be saying, well sure, but he was a wealthy man
 - ii. Wealth is quickly burned through in times of crisis
 - d. Boaz evidently trusted God to care for the needs of his family and workers
 - e. As a result, Boaz is present when God visits the land and provides food (**Ruth 1:6**)

2. He cared about others and they responded to him in the same way
 - a. We see this when he approaches the workers in the field in **Ruth 2:4**
 - i. His first words to the workers were not about the crop
 - ii. It was not about their work and how far they had gotten in their harvesting
 - iii. He spoke a word of blessing
 1. The Lord be with you
 2. And they returned the blessing to him
 - iv. This is not the usual relationship you see between the master of the house and his workers
 - v. It is noted because it speaks to the character of the man
 - b. Boaz spoke the language of his faith
 - i. This is the very definition of integrity
 - ii. His life was not divided from his faith, his faith was seen in his life
 - c. He is also obedient to the law of God
 - i. **Lev 19:9-10** - *When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner.*
 - ii. Boaz demonstrates this by what he tells the workers to do
 - iii. And he even goes beyond telling them to pull out stalks and leave extra (**Ruth 2:16**)
 - d. He is filled with faith, he carries himself with integrity, he obeys God's word, and he is generous

3. He is also a compassionate man
 - a. Remember the definition of compassion – aware of the need but also willing to do something about it
 - b. It begins with his acceptance of Ruth
 - i. He does not know her but refers to her as “my daughter” (**Ruth 2:2**)
 - ii. This would immediately put her at ease among the strangers of this foreign land
 - iii. He then carries that kindness out in practical ways – the second part of compassion
 1. Permission from the owner to glean from his fields

2. Stay near the other women for safety
 3. Drink from the water jars
 4. Rest in security from the workers
 - iv. This also showed Ruth the kind of man he was – a provider and caretaker
4. Boaz's life is that of a godly conduit
- a. What is a conduit?
 - i. Def – a natural or artificial channel through which something else flows
 - ii. In electrical work, it is a pipe where the wires run from one location to another
 - iii. In plumbing, it is the pipe through which water flows
 - iv. In the Christian, it is a life in which the love, power, and presence of God flows
 - b. God's love, mercy, and kindness flowed through Boaz
 - c. And it blessed the people around him – Ruth and Naomi to the workers in the field
 - d. This is what Paul is talking about in [Gal 1:15-16](#) when he is describing himself to the people who will be reading his letter
 - i. *But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being.*
 - ii. To 'reveal his Son in me' means God called him to be the conduit of that revelation to the Gentiles
 - iii. In the same way, God's grace and mercy were being revealed to Ruth through the life and actions of Boaz
5. Finally, Ruth asks the question of Boaz that most of us would have also asked, "Why me?" ([Ruth 2:10](#))
- a. The answer was a simple one, but I wonder how many of us would have done the same thing?
 - b. Ruth sought refuge under the wings of the God of Israel
 - c. But it required that she leave the familiar of her own, godless land, and go against what her father-in-law had decided
 - d. Elimelech sought his refuge away from the covering of God in Israel and went to the land of Moab
 - i. IOW, he responded to the voice of the world instead of the voice of God
 - ii. Was this the first time the people of God had encountered a problem?
 - iii. Elimelech's lack of trust in God brought him to an early end (the result of his lack of faith?)
 - e. [Psalm 7:1](#) - *LORD my God, I take refuge in you; save and deliver me from all who pursue me ...*

Very simply, Boaz was a man of God

- He lived it
- He spoke it

- And those around him knew it

Men, there are few examples in the Bible who better demonstrate what it means to live a godly life, but Boaz is such a man

- God had prepared Boaz his whole life for one purpose, to be the husband of Ruth
- In order for their son Obed to be born, who would have a son named Jesse, who would have a son named David
- And it was from the line of David that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ would be born