

THE BIGGER PICTURE

“God Cares. God Rules. God Provides”

RUTH 2:1-23

I. God Cares for the poor and oppressed

(vs. 2-3a) – Leviticus 23:22, “When you harvest the crops of your land, do not harvest the grain along the edges of your fields, and do not pick up what the harvesters drop. Leave it for the poor and the foreigners living among you. I am the LORD your God.”

Ruth 2:2 – “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.”

II. God Rules using ordinary day-to-day happenings to accomplish His purpose.

Ruth 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.”

Philippians 2:12b-13, “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

Ruth 2:6-7, “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.”

III. God Provides protection, provision, and peace

Ruth 2:10, “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?”

The heart of God is expressed in the hands of God’s people

Ruth 2:11, “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.”

Ruth 2:12, “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!”

Psalm 57:1, “Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.”

Ruth 2:13, “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.”

IV. God has a Plan...the Bigger Picture

[David I am not sure if I read this verse or not. If I did that include it; if not leave it out]

Ruth 2:21, “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.’”