Seed of Hope

Ruth 2

Journey of the King

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

Key Words: Grace, Blessing, Prayer, Christian Living

Introduction: Last week we were introduced to Elimelech (my God is King), who instead of trusting his God, for (humanly speaking) believed to be good reasons – led his family to the land that God told the Israelites not to go (Deuteronomy 23:1-6). Planning to just be there for a short time (sojourned 1:1), he dies there… then his sons die there.. Now his wife and Moabite daughter in law return to his homeland with nothing..

Chapter two introduces a new man into the life of Ruth and the “seed of hope” has now been planated.

Story:

Scripture:

1. Boaz: swift or brisk.. he is mentioned here as simply a relative..
2. *“In rabbinic tradition, Boaz was the nephew of Elimelech and so the first cousin of Naomi’s son Mahon. Also, Boaz was about 80 years old, a childless widower.”*
3. *Great*; mighty man of valor “worthy in battle” (Isaiah 9:6)
4. Ruth goes out to find grace (favor)
5. *She happened..* God’s intentional accidents..
6. Boaz part of remnant of believers during a time of Spiritual rebellion in Israel.
7. Boaz might have inquired about her because she requested of the foreman to collect from what the women of the field dropped (not just the corners..) or she was an unknown young woman.
8. She is a foreigner, Moabite (Deuteronomy 23:3; Deuteronomy 7…)
9. This is spiritual not “race”
10. She is a diligent worker, only resting a little while (Proverbs 31)

8-9. Boaz instructs Ruth to stay in his field for the rest of the harvest (includes March-April)

10. Why are you showing me grace, I am a foreigner (Moabite)

a. *nokhri* foreigner as in Deuteronomy 14:21; 15:3)

b. favor, grace (2)

11. Boaz is in awe of her character

12. Boaz prays a blessing over Ruth

13. Ruth finds grace in the sight of Boaz (2, 10, 13)

a. *amah-* servant who could marry Israelite freeman

b. *shiphah-* lowest class, only fit for menial tasks

c. Understand her position… (see also Ephesians 2:11-22; Matthew 1:5)

14. Boaz serves Ruth!

15. Boaz instructs his servants to let her work along side his other servants

15-16. cut with the right hand, harvest with the left, and pull out some for her

17. an ephah is about 30 lbs.

18. Feeds Naomi the left overs.

19-20. It is now revealed that Boaz is a possible kinsman-redeemer.

21. Ruth relays to Naomi that Boaz told her to stay and work along side his servants.

22. This story is during the Judges… Israelites did what was right in their own eyes.

23. Ruth does as both Boaz and Naomi instructed her, continuing to live with Naomi.

Chapter One: Ruth lives up to her name as the loyal friend to her mother-in-law.

Chapter Two: Ruth is a faithful servant for her mother in law..

Outline: How we can be a Boaz

1. Boaz Was a God-Fearing Man
2. His blessing from the beginning (Ruth 2:4)
3. His desire to honor Scripture (Ruth 2:8-9; Deuteronomy 24:19)
4. Boaz Showed Concern For Others
5. Boaz goes beyond scriptures expectations (2:8-9; 15-16)
6. Boaz show compassion for living and the dead (2:11,20)
7. Boaz Added Feet To His Prayers
8. Boaz’s prayer for blessing on Ruth (2:12)
9. He blesses her beyond the law (2:8-9; 15-16)
10. He fullfills his own prayer (chapter 4)

Story:

Prop: Blessed To Be a Blessing

Conclusion: We as believers must put Jesus first, other second.. and we must live to bless others, as God, through Christ has blessed us!

Challenge: Who can we be a Boaz to? Who can we bless?

Gospel: Ruth knows that she is a Moabite, gentile woman who by the Law had no rights to anything of Israel… She was a total outsider… Yet she came to Israel, to the God of Israel looking for grace… And in Ruth chapter two she finds it… Boaz blesses her, extends grace to her.. serving her, even as she calls herself the lowest of servants… What a story pointing us to the very grace of God! Look at Romans 5:6-11..