

~ Any professor at university today will proudly declare openly and dogmatically to their students that only a fool could possibly believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. They advocate the Bible to be riddled with errors and a vengeful god figure that only the most unlearned could possibly accept as truth. The graduate student or doctorate scholar who professes Christ amongst his peers will find themselves ostracized resulting in an extremely dismal prospect of a future in their chosen fields. These statements hold true across the entire spectrum of academia. The contemporary educator is smug and insulate in their abject godlessness. American education is not designed to produce academic giants; the mission is to suppress God and turn the students – our children – against Him; and to teach them to hate the Word of God being presented as truth and wisdom. I'm not sure who they think they are kidding, and if you think I am wrong, then you are – well – you're stupid, my beloved. There's no correct way to phrase it otherwise. I just happen to have a whole lot of experience in this little matter that has become the biggest problem in American education – indeed, the current state of world learning.

Our Spiritual Safari continues the account of Naomi and Ruth in this report. This impoverished widow and her daughter-in-law returned to Bethlehemjudah from Moab where they had just experienced complete crisis in their lives. In our previous report, we considered Ruth going into a certain field by chance to glean according to the Mosaic System of Levitical Law poverty program. Well, it was chance and circumstance from Ruth's perspective, but God was leading her. If a man waits until he gets to the crossroads of life to turn to Him, there is a high likelihood they will never discover which way to go. Knowing God's way and purpose for our lives requires a day by day walk in the Word of God; there is no other way. If we walk daily in Bible study, then those crossroads will turn into straight paths. When we do hit a crossroad, we'll know how to decide in faith, and we'll ALWAYS know we are going the proper and correct direction. If we know the Bible, and we walk close with God, there will be no mistakes - even

when you make them. I can tell you for certain that knowing the Word of God properly, correctly and completely means always – always knowing which way to go.

Well, Ruth walked down that winding road looking in different fields, and she had to decide. The angels in the battlements of Heaven watched her with bated breath because, if she makes the wrong decision, the wise men will be staying home a thousand years from the time in which we are studying; they'll still be wise men, but there would be no baby Jesus in Bethlehem to worship. Remember, Ruth's "hap" lighted her way – and that's a word of chance. I'm sure she and Naomi prayed about this, and they were looking to God to lead them; and, friends, God leads the willing heart and submissive mind. You can just write that down.

We saw Boaz fall madly in love at first sight with Ruth in our last report. Boaz offered her almost his whole harvest on the very first day he met her. We saw Ruth ask why she had found this grace in his eyes. Remember, Ruth was lovely and beautiful – she was worth having around. However, I still have the same question I had in the last report: why have I – Andrew – found grace in God's eyes? Thank God the answer is not in us – it's in the Lord Jesus Christ. That answer is that He loved us, so He gave Himself for us. We only love God because He first loved us. That contradicts ALL worldly wisdom....

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14 And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left.

15 And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not:

~ So, Boaz eats lunch with Ruth and his workmen in the field. This probably wasn't a gourmet lunch by our standards, but it was common fare for the

days in which we are studying. I suspect this was the best meal Ruth had eaten in a long time. Suddenly, it's time to go back to work and Boaz is in love with her. Remember, Ruth had been gleaning; but now, Boaz instructs his men to allow her to take from what was already harvested. I guess Boaz didn't want her working too hard....

16 And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her not.

~ My safari friends, I don't know if I can find a more caring, beautiful or loving verse in the entire Bible. Boaz is ready to give this woman everything. He has fallen hard for Ruth. Naturally, this means Boaz instructs his workers to intentionally drop a sheaf and move on as if nothing had happened. That's the way God took care of His people in that day; and that's how He will take care of you today – IF you will allow Him to and IF you have allowed God to lead your life to the right and correct field.

Deuteronomy 24:19 When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hands ~

Boaz knew the Mosaic Law; he believed God, and he lived his life according to obedience unto the Lord. That obedience is going to result in a huge blessing. So, as we read on, we see Naomi is wondering where these sheaves came from because Ruth has possession of things the average poor person would never have had. Ruth had more than any woman could have possibly gleaned on their own. I'm sure Naomi never dreamed anything like this would happen; but here they are Well, it doesn't take Naomi long to figure out someone has taken notice of Ruth....

17 So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley.

18 And she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed.

19 And her mother in law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned to day? and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And she shewed her mother in law with whom she had wrought, and said, the man's name with whom I wrought to day is Boaz.

~ Ruth had no idea who Boaz was. She had no understanding of his position in the community or his prominence in Israel. The only thing Ruth knew was that Boaz had been particularly nice and friendly. I doubt she sensed Boaz had fallen in love with her yet; because I'm also sure Boaz was smart enough not to make a fool of himself and act stupid in this situation. Ruth believed Naomi who told her that no one was going to be interested in her amongst the men of Israel. Ruth had accepted all of that as fact and she wasn't even looking for this type of miracle to happen. She certainly did not realize the complete significance of what has just transpired....

20 And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the LORD, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen.

~ A relative to you and me today doesn't mean much unless we are included in their final living will and testament. Well, we learned about a law in Leviticus concerning the Mosaic System known as Goel – the kinsman redeemer. It's much different from the way we do things today. This law manifests itself in several different ways; and is the second of four very strange laws we must consider in our study through Ruth. The first was God's poverty program for His people. If you have not read our first three reports from Ruth I suggest you go back and do so now:

Leviticus 25:23 The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me. 24 And in all the land of your possession ye shall grant a redemption for the land. 25 If thy brother be

waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold. 26 And if the man have none to redeem it, and himself be able to redeem it; 27 Then let him count the years of the sale thereof, and restore the overplus unto the man to whom he sold it; that he may return unto his possession. 28 But if he be not able to restore it to him, then that which is sold shall remain in the hand of him that hath bought it until the year of jubile: and in the jubile it shall go out, and he shall return unto his possession ~

It was impossible for an Israelite to give a quit claim deed for their property. Land could never leave the family's possession under any circumstances. The land was, actually, the Lord's land; He gave it to the children of Israel, and He established their borders. Then, each tribe was given a particular portion of the land and each family was given a parcel within. That parcel would remain in the family forevermore. Remember, each year of Jubilee all mortgages were cancelled; maybe a man had a few bad years of poor crops, and he became poor – or something like that. In that year all slaves went free, and all property was returned to its original owner.

Leviticus 25:47 And if a sojourner or stranger wax rich by thee, and thy brother that dwelleth by him wax poor, and sell himself unto the stranger or sojourner by thee, or to the stock of the stranger's family: 48 After that he is sold he may be redeemed again; one of his brethren may redeem him: 49 Either his uncle, or his uncle's son, may redeem him, or any that is nigh of kin unto him of his family may redeem him; or if he be able, he may redeem himself ~

Verse forty-seven through forty-nine of Leviticus chapter twenty-five speaks of redemption. Perhaps that man with poor crops had lost it all and had to sell himself into slavery, say, forty years before Jubilee. So, he writes to his brother and his brother comes and buys him out of that slavery. Well, you and I have a kinsman redeemer we can call upon to buy us out of the slavery of sin. Christ has already paid the price for our redemption. All we have to do is accept it.

You and I live in a world burdened with the curse of sin. All creation groans and travails – even until NOW! God knew all about pollution - long before our sophisticated and scientifically advanced man created the worlds problems. This world is under a curse only the Lord Jesus can lift upon His return. That’s when the desert will blossom as the rose and every man will dwell in peace and safety. Not today.

So, Naomi has a kinsman who was a relative of her husband, Elimelech. My personal feeling is Boaz was a close nephew, who would have made Ruth’s husband Boaz’s cousin. As we read on, we will see there is another kinsman who is closer to Elimelech than Boaz; obviously, the direct brother of Elimelech. Well, Naomi lost rights to his property long ago, and the year of Jubilee was, apparently, not in sight at this time....

21 And Ruth the Moabite said, He said unto me also, Thou shalt keep fast by my young men, until they have ended all my harvest.

22 And Naomi said unto Ruth her daughter in law, It is good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens, that they meet thee not in any other field.

23 So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and dwelt with her mother in law.

~ The barley and wheat harvest duration was approximately three to six weeks. So, Boaz and Ruth were coming together in this field every afternoon for about a month or a month and a half. Bethlehem was buzzing about the business about Boaz. Everyone was talking and making comments about how the most eligible bachelor in Bethlehem Judah had been caught. His love for Ruth was more than obvious. Ruth isn't doing or saying anything throughout all of this. She just remained calm and collected; and I doubt she understood the full significance of what was happening....



1 Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?

~ Here in chapter three, our Spiritual Safari leaves the fields of Boaz, and we're going to his threshing floor. In our next report, we will see Ruth has no idea what was happening, and Boaz can't propose to her at this time. Ruth is in a very unique position at this point. Those of you who think I am sexist when I insist on women not teaching and preaching – I have news for you – the Bible is a woman's book. The man in the Word of God RARELY comes across as correctly as he should. Almost all of the women do. Ruth has rights that she isn't aware of, and she doesn't really understand how to exercise those rights properly at this time. Well, Naomi is going to take these matters in her own hands and tell Ruth exactly what she is to do. I hope you'll join this expedition next time for some remarkable and tremendous spiritual truths ~

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