

~ The Word of God is the only instrument known to mankind that can effectively convict hearts and, as a result, change that person's life and thinking. There is no other literature, program, educational system, function or form available to the human race that creates a clean life, a clean mind and clean relationship with our righteous and holy God. The Lord Jesus Christ said, "without Me, ye can do NOTHING!" The reason there is so much talk yet so little real accomplishment for the cause of Christ in the lives of "believers" today is because the Lord Jesus doesn't take first place, and obedience to His Word is optional and, the result is the empty religious arguing and babbling that goes on incessantly around this forum on which I teach. See, the reality today concerning religion is that every man is doing what is right in his own eyes. And when you apply that to religion - you have a state of societal horror. Let me also say: this forum on which I teach is the landfill garbage dump of human thought and emotion.

So many theologies abound – so little obedience to Christ is displayed. Most so-called Christians have no earthly idea of the true power of the Spirit God. I thank Him for those of you who have recently told me how much you appreciate this safari. I want to personally thank all of you who have committed to regularly support this missionary effort; even after the lies, hate and gossip attacks by people who, I can only assume, hate God. Of course, they never address a report - only some character flaw in me - of which there are many. I thank God my reports are simply passed over by most of the world – just as God told me they would be. I'm not surprised by the conflicted and contradictive lives most people lead these days because they refuse to obey God and His Word – all the while claiming Jesus and incessantly splitting every theological hair they can find with me; and the problem is typically because they are completely ignorant of the Bible.

Many people have fallen into the trap of severe over-spiritualization of Scripture. I think some people have read every single one of these reports

but missed the precepts God was laying on my heart to bring to them. Too many people are looking to their own ability to speak as opposed to looking to Jesus to lead them linguistically in the Bible. The effect is subtle; but tremendously negative. Most contemporary Christians view themselves as super-duper spiritually articulate saints; but exhibit utmost carnality in every word they utter. If this is convicting your heart, then you are drifting farther and farther from your Father in Heaven. God is calling you back. Many readers have simply stopped reading because they blame me for not being nice and all that garbage. Well, it just happens to be YOU who are wrong – not God – not God’s Word – YOU are the misguided one, friends. The pain, doubt and uncertainty in your lives are more than apparent from your words; you can just write that down. We all need to examine ourselves today and ask: are we who people think we are? Are we who we think we are? Do our friends and family see us as we see ourselves? Are we counterfeit Christians? Are we actually inspired to study the Bible? Are we REALLY in the faith – or are we just pretending?

God hates the sin in your life, friends. You can write that down, too. Most are so concerned with the sins of others they can't see their own iniquity. Well, God sometimes allows our spiritual discernment to wane because of that problem, which always culminates in the Christian being removed from His service without notice. You can blame God all day long, but the problem is YOU! Don't think for a moment God isn't behind the problems happening in your life. God never gives you up – you are the one giving up God! Condemnation will continue to attack your mind; even those who think they know Scripture and have prayed until they can't pray anymore. We are saved by grace – but temptations will continue to plague you and Satan will make you feel that you are without hope. May I say this kindly? – Most self-professing believers are utterly useless in the service of God simply because they refuse to study the Bible properly, correctly and completely.

Well, here in the book of Ruth, we are examining a prodigal family that has recently returned from the far country of Moab. These two widows, Naomi and Ruth, received their punishment there but have now returned home to Judah. Ruth knows to expect no real consideration amongst the children of Israel, and she is, in fact, prepared to be completely ostracized. They are

both fully prepared for perpetual poverty and widowhood; and that fact hadn't made Ruth hesitate to return to the land with Naomi.

We also re-examined the first of four strange Mosaic Laws in our previous two reports from Ruth. If you have not read that report, I suggest you go back and do so now. That is God's poverty program for the stranger and the widow in Israel - which Naomi and Ruth both are. We saw there were no hand-outs, but there was a way made for them by gleaning in the fields. They could follow the harvesters and they would be given an opportunity to take what was left behind. It was very much worthwhile to get out there and work to take of yourself. Ruth asked Naomi's permission to go out into the fields; and Naomi told her to go. So, Ruth goes out to glean for them both....

3 And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.

~ Ruth had no idea what field she was in. The word "hap" is an old Elizabethan word of chance. We get the English word "perhaps" from the root word. Interestingly, our happiness depends on what happens. Ruth walked down the road and went where it seemed most beneficial; likely where most of the grain was left. There was no scientific evaluation made as to which field she would enter. God certainly hadn't revealed to Ruth which field to go into. I'm sure they had both prayed about this, but Ruth had no idea. Ruth didn't have some directives given in a dream the night before or some divine intervention, either. In actuality, the angels of Heaven were looking down holding their breath; because if Ruth goes in the wrong field, Jesus won't be born in Bethlehem a thousand years later.

Most people seem to believe God would have given Ruth a clear guideline or even a roadmap of His will for her life at this point. No, friends; God doesn't operate like that. Ruth prayed for leading, and the Lord used her circumstances in His leading. If God ever gets a chance to lead YOUR life, that's the way He'll do it for you, too. Today, we have a whole lot of people believing we will have miraculous leading of every step we take and in

everything we do. People give testimony after testimony about how the Lord has led them down a certain road or to a certain place at a certain time - and some go as far as to say the Lord directs what they eat for lunch every day - but a year later, something has happened, and that enthusiasm for God is not so strong anymore. Their lives are still a mess. They're usually questioning God, and their faith is battered or altogether shipwrecked.

Well, that type of testimony - even if it were true - discourages MANY new Christians who don't have such clear and present spiritual leading. Let's stop this foolishness of talking about dreams and visions that either never happened or are meaningless and stop telling lies about hearing angels or spirits. If you are hearing things or seeing things you probably need to visit a medical doctor. God doesn't lead us with pie-in-the-sky messages, friends. No, He speaks to us in His Word. God only leads His children through Scripture. No other way. None whatsoever. If God spoke to you audibly out of Heaven directing your life right NOW He would quote Himself in the Bible. God has said everything He has to say to mankind through the Lord Jesus Christ and that means in the Bible. Those arguing against my theology on this matter are those who NEVER study the Bible, friends. I'm not sure who they think they're kidding; but they're not kidding Andrew. They're not kidding God. They're kidding themselves; and they are frighteningly good at doing so.

Now, if you're willing to be taken by the Spirit of God and step out in faith, then God will lead you. You better make sure that's what you really want for your life - and you better make sure you are attempting to know Christ from His Word FIRST, though; or there will be unhappy results. If you hang around people who believe they have dreams and visions for a long enough time, you will find they make the biggest failures of their lives anyone can possibly make. Ruth isn't going to fail because dreams aren't how God does her leading. God isn't going to hand you a road map - God has handed you a Bible. If God led us otherwise we would never consider Scripture. Every man would do that which was right in His own eyes. Remember, God said, "I guide them with Mine Eyes." You'll have to get pretty close to God to be led like that, my friends. You won't just run and grab at it when you're in trouble, either - you can just write that down, too. These are truths only

learned through many, many years of dedicated, educated, sincere, proper and complete Bible study. Ruth made her decision to go into Boaz's field with pure, God given, common sense. Period. Her "hap" was to go into that field....

4 And, behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said unto the reapers, The LORD be with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee.

5 Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel is this?

6 And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, It is the Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab:

~ See, Boaz wasn't even in his field when Ruth arrived. She didn't know it was his field, and she didn't know Boaz from a tenant farmer working for him. Interestingly, we also have a demonstration of capital and labor thrown in seemingly randomly at verse four. Labor says, "... the Lord be with you" - and capital says, "... the Lord bless thee!" Well, that's about the time Boaz notices Ruth! Boaz didn't know any of the other people gleaning. The gleaners were all poor people and strangers to him. The old Elizabethan translation of "whose damsel is this?" - was a Hebrew wolf call, and a whistle at a woman as might be heard on a construction site. Boaz may have recognized some of the other people gleaning, but he was wondering why he had never met this woman. Boaz was likely the most eligible bachelor in Bethlehem. He was probably the most prominent man, too. I'm sure all the mothers had invited him over for tea, but Boaz hadn't taken the bait. This is what we call love at first sight! I just happen to believe in love at first sight, too, by the way! That doesn't mean rush in foolishly; but, if it's real you'll know the person you love when you first see them. Well, Boaz is in love; Boaz doesn't want her in any other fields anymore, either....

7 And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves: so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now, that she tarried a little in the house.

8 Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens:

9 Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.

10 Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?

11 And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore.

12 The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.

13 Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens.

~ Boaz placed his mantle of protection over Ruth. That's how Christ protects us spiritually. You and I cannot realize the dangers and insults Ruth would have been subject to in Israel. She is an outcast outsider and she had been insulted before this; you may be sure. Realistically, Ruth could have been in extreme danger without Boaz mentioning her. The questions Ruth has in verse ten are sincere. She had some real and rightful questions

because Naomi had schooled her on what to expect – and that was to expect the worst. Naomi had told her no one would ever notice her. Ruth saw herself as the shameful reproach to the men in Israel that she was. Ruth expected and believed she would be poor and totally impoverished for the rest of her life. It seems a little too good to be true to believe that the very first time she is in a field the most eligible man in town comes out and helps her; not to mention this all happened on the same day. Things are moving pretty fast, even by today's standards. It's moving VERY fast for the day in which we are studying.

I can understand Ruth is a woman of great beauty, so that question is easily answered by me. What I don't understand is what God sees in ME! Why have I found grace in His eyes? That's my question. I'm no Ruth. I'm no beauty. Quite the contrary. When I look in the mirror, I wonder even more about all of this. There's nothing in my mirror that merits the grace of God. All I see is a couple hundred pounds of sin. While I was busy running away from God and rebelling against Him is when He told me He loved me. While I was a sinner without strength, Christ died for my ungodliness. I don't understand that. Maybe you do. What I do understand is God doesn't find anything worthy in me, friends. Maybe He does in you. Either way, He loves me! He saw my need so long ago and had compassion! That just happens to be what He thinks of you, too; irrespective of whether you believe it, understand it, accept it, agree with it, like it - or not. It's called grace in His eyes. Do you truly love our Savior? More importantly, do you love Him because He first loved you? Or do you love your own goodness that you erroneously believe God accepts? ~

~