## Ruth Chapter 2: 8-16

Why have I found such favor in your eyes?



### Emendation of Verse 7



## Verses 8-9: Unexpected Chesed

Then Boaz said to Ruth,

- 'Now listen, my daughter, (Older man younger woman or Status. See a few examples: Matthew 10:42, 11:25, Mark 10:24, John 25:5)
- do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, (household protections and privileges. Patronage. Under the umbrella.)
- In but keep close to my young women. Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped, and follow behind them. (Same word for "cling" which was used for when Ruth "clings to Naomi." "Keep your wits about you! Follow close behind.")
- I have ordered the young men not to bother you. (Sanitized way of saying, molest, touch, have their way with, assault you. Once again, household protections.)
- If you get thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn.' (Provision, singling her out, grace that goes above and beyond.)

## Why: The Question of Motive

God caused Boaz to take notice of Ruth (Spiritual Explanation)

Boaz was "thunderstruck" with Ruth's beauty. (Exotic Woman Explanation.)

Boaz had already learned what people were saying about Ruth and was impressed by the story he had heard (Historical Explanation.)

Boaz would have acted the same way with any unprotected gleaner he hadn't met before. This is the type of man he was (Character Explanation.)



#### Notriyya: Foreigner

## Verse 10: Another Pun

"Then she fell prostrate, with her face to the ground, and said to him, 'Why have I found favor in your sight, that you should take notice of me, when I am a foreigner?"

Fell prostrate, with her face to the ground (public setting: disrespectful to speak to a man as an equal, insulting to look at a man in the eye, dishonorable to ask a question of a man who is not her husband or male relative. This posture assumes a servant-master relationship, but it goes deeper. She, a foreigner woman is speaking to an older male Israelite who is a landowner and a person of substance.

Why have I found favor in your sight?

Why notice the unnoticeable? (see the unseen, recognize the foreigner)

#### NKR: Take Notice

<u>11 "But Boaz answered</u> her, 'All that you have done for your mother-inlaw since the death of your husband has been fully told me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before."

- It has been reported to me: Dynamic of a small town, pillar of society, big story of devotion at a time of crisis, perfect example of cleaving and clinging, a story of conversion to Judaism.
  - $\diamond$   $\cdot$  She put her trust in the God of Israel.
  - $\diamond$   $\cdot$  She has left her former associates.
  - $\diamond$   $\cdot$  She had come in among strangers.
  - $\diamond$   $\cdot$  She was very low in her own eyes.
  - ♦ She found protection under the wings of Boaz' God. (Enduring Word BC)

12 "May the Lord reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!"

- ♦ Notes From C. H. Spurgeon
  - \* "THIS was the language of Boaz, a man of substance and of note in Bethlehem, to a poor stranger of whom he had heard that she had left her kindred, and the idols of her nation, that she might become a worshipper of the living and true God."
  - \* "He acted a noble part when he cheered her, and bade her be of good courage, now that she was casting in her lot with Naomi and the chosen nation. Observe that he saluted her with words of tender encouragement... That the tender babes in the household may become strong members of the divine family, they must be nursed and fed. If Ruth is to be happy in the land of Israel a Boaz must look after her, and be her true friend. Let her nearest kinsmen be speedy in fulfilling this duty."
  - Therefore, I do entreat all of you whom God has greatly blessed, to look after those that are of low estate in spiritual things, and try to cheer and encourage them.
  - Soaz, wishing well as he did to the humble maiden from Moab, spoke with her, and then spoke with God in prayer for her. I take it that my text is a prayer as well as a benediction.

## Verse 12 Continued

- Under the wings of God: Wings, cloaks, corner of a garment... God is like a mother hen that protects its young by sheltering them under its wing: Deuteronomy 32:11, Psalm 91:4.
- Since wings symbolize a place of refuge, the metaphor refers essentially to the Lord's protection. Ruth has placed herself under the protection the God of Israel.
- The Center of the entire book of Ruth. This verse fulfills the purpose for the story: God will reward the convert who comes under his wings for protection!



13 "Then she said, 'May I continue to find favor in your sight, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, even though I am not one of your servants.'"

The prayer, "May the Lord repay you for what you have done..." assumes that Boaz believes Ruth's future is in the Lord's hand. Ruth does not disagree with him, but in the first part of this verse, Ruth gently challenges Boaz to do his part to ensure that his prayer comes to pass. She says, "Continue to have mercy." "Ruth's reply in the first part of verse 13 subtly suggests that the Lord may be waiting for Boaz to act! In modern colloquial terms, we might say that Ruth challenges Boaz to 'put his money where his mouth is.'" (NIB.)

## you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant...

- Sipha (maid or maidservant): The meaning changes according to the context in which it is used:
  - ♦ Maidservant in Exodus 11:5 means menial labor as in lowest rank is social class
  - Solution & Maidservant in Genesis 12:16 is a maid eligible to bear children for her mistress' husband (Hagar, Bilhah, or Zilpah.)
  - Subset And A State A State

14-16 "At mealtime Boaz said to her, 'Come here, and eat some of this bread, and dip your morsel in the sour wine.' So she sat beside the reapers, and he heaped up for her some parched grain. She ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. When she got up to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, 'Let her glean even among the standing sheaves, and do not reproach her. You must also pull out some handfuls for her from the bundles, and leave them for her to glean, and do not rebuke her.'

- Hospitality rules in the ancient world dictated that "When hospitality was offered and accepted, it was generally understood that the protection of the hosts' clan was extended to the guest.
- When unknown travelers are invited into people's homes, the sharing of food is always mentioned (Genesis 18-19; 24; Judges 19.)
- The offering of food is a ritual associated with the offering of protection to the unprotected." (NIB)
- \* "He heaped..." this is remarkable. Boaz serves Ruth a heaping portion of food and "she had leftovers," meaning that Naomi herself will benefit from his generosity of food.
- This is remarkable grace that goes above and beyond normal hospitality rules.

# Among the Sheaves

- Solution Construction Constr
- Although this is not customary for gleaning, Boaz now orders it to be done. Perhaps, Boaz understood Ruth's challenge for what it was, and has decided to make his prayer a reality.
- Once again, this is grace that goes above and beyond what is expected.
- Azab: a reversal worth noting. From "Do not dare leave me" (1:16) to "Leave some stalks for her to glean."
- "Do not touch her" (9b) and now "Do not humiliate her," scold her, rebuke her... (16b).
- ♦ This is God's Chessed!

## Tzedakah and Chessed Lord Rabii Jonathan Sacks

