

RUTH STUDY

CHAPTER 2:18-23

TAPE NUMBER SM-284 - JANUARY 17, 1998

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

The Romance of Redemption

The Gospel According to Ruth

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Living and Loving by His Hands”

The ‘Sentence Summation’ of the Text

Certain words need no explanation or introduction: words like; Rolls-Royce, Pop-Tarts, IBM, Mickey Mouse, Touchdown, In & Out Double-Double

Words That We Immediately Identify With Because They are Familiar to Us either because we know these things personally or we desire them

I believe that Christians are to be the most energetic, excited, influential, joyful, and dynamic people on the face of the earth.

Consider for a moment who we are

- *We are a people who understand that our God is creator*
- *We are a people who understand that He has a divine purpose for our lives*
- *We are a people who understand that our God loves us*
- *We are a people who understand that hour we have been accepted by the eternal judge*
- *We are a people who understand that our home is really in heaven*
- *We are a people who understand that our Jesus paid our sin-debt*
- *We are a people who understand that our God reigns*
- *We are a people who understand that His coming back for us*

Because these Words are true - How should we be Living

“Living and Loving by His Hands”

Jesus Said - Matthew 4:4

"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

"Living and Loving by His Hands"

1.) The Goodness of God Overrides Our Troubles v. 18-19

Then she took it up and went into the city, and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. So she brought out and gave to her what she had kept back after she had been satisfied.

1a.) By Supplying More than What We Need v. 18a

So she brought out **and gave to her** what she had kept back
after she had been satisfied.

Naomi **Saw** What Ruth had Gleaned
and
Tasted of What Ruth had been Given

We're talking 30 lbs. of Grain
plus The Doggy Bag from Dinner
Ruth's Work was a Joy...
Filled with Rewards

Work and Rewards

John 15:5

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing...."

John 15:16 NIV

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that (you should go -service to Christ)
and (bear fruit - rewards for you), and that your fruit should remain"

Verse 19

And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz."

1b.) Overwhelming Evidence of God's Hand vv. 19b

"Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work?"

Naomi asked a good question

**"Where did glean today"
And where did you work?**

The 30 lbs. of Grain, 6 days Labor-worth

...and what she brought out -
was a wonderful burden to carry

When God Blesses - There Will be a Burden to Carry

Luke 6:38

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

The Burden Jesus Gives -- is Wonderful!!!

Matthew 11:29-30

"Take **My yoke** upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. "For My yoke is easy and **My burden** is light."

* **My yoke** grk the harness or scales that I use are very comfortable

* **My burden** grk the goods, the cargo is a joy to carry

Jesus is Talking About Gleaning with Him - In Service

Verse 19

Blessed be the one who took notice of you

Before Naomi hears “Who the Man is” she Goes to Praise and Blessings
(Hebrew scholars say that the construction of the words here imply
that Naomi was a verbal - optimist)

- Ruth sees the need at home - *poverty*
- Ruth response to the Word of God - *gleans*
 - Boaz sees the foreigner - *compassion*
- Boaz is blessed and blesses Ruth - *grace*
 - Ruth returns to Naomi - *shares*
 - Naomi prays for Boaz - *ministry*

Who's the Most Blessed?

I can't tell...

1c.) Ruth is Unaware of Her “Ordained” Future	vv. 19c
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" So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked,
(the reapers) and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz." (the
boss)

In Her Eyes

There had to be a glow of excitement and appreciation

Her Poverty Had Prepared Her Soul for Happiness

Ruth is Unaware That Boaz is a Relation

Joy and Happiness is a Matter of the Soul,

Never of the Props Around Us

Mark 8:36-37

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world,
and loses his own soul? ³⁷ "Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

?? Is Your Joy, and Happiness Dependent Upon This Worlds Treatment of You??

IN AMERICA

We have come to believe that our constitution guarantees us the right to
“Life, Liberty and the **Purchase** of Happiness

Howard Hughes and the NBC interview the night of his death
“My billions of dollars were never able to buy me happiness”

1 Timothy 6:9-10

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful
lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in
their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Ruth was Overjoyed with Having the Necessities of Life

1 Timothy 6:7-8

For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food
and clothing, with these we shall be content.

“Living and Loving by His Hands”

2.) The Goodness of God Overrides Our Hearts vv. 20

Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "**Blessed be he of the LORD**, who has not
forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "This man is
a relation of ours, one of our close relatives."

2a.) Naomi's Desire was Recognized and Received vv. 19c

"The man's name with whom I worked today
is Boaz...."

“Blessed be he of the LORD”

Wait a Minute Naomi

You had given up on God caring for you

Ruth 1:20-21

But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. "I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

From BITTER to BLESSED

- Naomi had been living on a fractured faith
- She had come back to Bethlehem with “humble” expectations
- No doubt she had been praying all along

Encouraging words

1 John 3:20

For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

“Living and Loving by His Hands”

2b) Boaz’ Obedience benefited All the Others

vv. 20b

who has not forsaken His (the LORD) kindness
to the living and the dead!"

Christianity is a Community
and the community functions through loving Fellowship

***Every “So-Called Christian” that says that they really don’t need to fellowship with God’s
people is rebelling against Lord at least***

Acts 2:42

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Philippians 2:1-2

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

Verse 20b

who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!"

Joel 2:25-26a

"I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust.... ²⁶ You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you...

I Wonder if Naomi Remembered the words to Joshua

Joshua 1:5b

...as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

2 Peter 1:4a

he has given unto us exceedingly great and precious promises,

**Challenging times
increase the frequency of our prayers and
enhance the depth of our them**

"Living and Loving by His Hands"

The Goodness of God Overrides Our Hearts

"Recognized" by Her Expectant Eyes

"blessed"

there is an exuberance in her "Bless-sed"

"Received" by Her Heart

Naomi said to her,

"This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives."

To have expectant eyes

is to be looking to God in faith for what he has declared

to have a receiving heart

is to be willing and ready to accept what He gives us

- Are your “Spiritual Eyes” expecting
- Is Your “Spiritual Heart” ready to receive

2c.) Naomi Now See’s What the Lord Had Known v. 20b

"This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives."

Until Now,

Naomi Had not Yet told Ruth about the Act of Redemption
(Which makes Ruth ever more attractive - unselfish in nature)

According to Deuteronomy 25 & Leviticus 25

- * **Close relatives** **Heb. 1350 ga'al (gaw-al');**
to be the next in line - to buy back a relative's property, to marry
the widowed. to become the avenger, one that ransoms back that which
was lost – to purchase out of

Matthew 20:28

"the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

1 Timothy 2:5-6a

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave
Himself a ransom for all...

By providence

God brought to Naomi remembrance redemption.

“Living and Loving by His Hands”

3.) The Goodness of God Overrules All Others v. 21-22

Ruth the Moabite said, "He also said to me, 'You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'"

And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, and that people do not meet you in any other field."

"It is **good**, my daughter, that you go out with his young women,

This is very special dear

and that people do not meet you in any other field."

**Ruth would show contempt
toward Boaz favor.**

If we expect to receive benefit by Jesus, let us closely adhere to Him, and His fields, and His family; let us not go to the world and its fields

"Living and Loving by His Hands"

4.) The Goodness of God Overrides Times & Seasons v. 23

"Living and Loving by His Hands"

Ruth Understandably Stays Close

Verse 23

So she **stayed close** by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she **dwelt** with her mother-in-law.

"So she stayed close"

no doubt that in the things she was asked to do
there was an element of testing

and for Boaz and Naomi, it was their place to observe

**? Will Ruth turn out be the woman
she appears to be?**

Trials

Will Challenge your Confession

Difficulties

Will Test your Foundation

Opportunities

Will Come to You... And what will you do?

You will never know... until the trials and difficulties come

As well as the Good times and Opportunities

I have seen Christians and Christians homes destroyed because of the mismanagement
of God's blessings

***So she constantly came to her mother at night in due
time, she showed that she
was a virtuous woman,***

Verse 23

So she **stayed close** by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley
harvest and wheat harvest;

...and the season passed

What is Implied is that Their First Day of Meeting Led to Many More

Barley being at mid-April

&
Wheat being at the end of June or July

Verse 23

So she gleaned until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest

James 5:7

Therefore be patient, Christian, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious harvest of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rains.

There's the Spring Harvest of Souls
and There's the Fall Harvest of Souls
and when the gleaning comes to an end,
there is no more time for harvesting
We need to be Gleaning and Sending Gleaners
Out

Jeremiah 8:20

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and you're not saved!"

1.) The Goodness of God Overrides Our Troubles	v. 18-19
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2.) The Goodness of God Overrides Our Hearts	v. 20
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3.) The Goodness of God Overrides All Others	v. 21-22
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4.) The Goodness of God Overrides Times & Seasons	v. 23
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