

Ruth and Boaz

MEMORY VERSE: I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. JOB 19:25

SCRIPTURES: Ruth 2, 3, 4:13

AIM: God's plan is amazing

It was harvest time in Bethlehem. The golden stalks were heavy with grain. The reapers were very busy, first cutting the stalks and then putting them into bundles. Ruth noticed that some stalks of grain were left in the field. She also noticed some women and men were picking up the leftover stalks and putting them in their own bundles, gleaning the fields.

Ruth knew there was little food left in Naomi's house. She said to Naomi, "Let me glean for some free grain. Then we can sell the grain and have money to buy food."

"All right, dear daughter," Naomi answered. "Go ahead."

Very soon Ruth found herself in the field that belonged to a rich man named Boaz. He noticed Ruth working in the field. He asked, "Who is that girl there?"

"She is the widow who came back with Naomi. She asked if she could pick up some of the grain the reapers left behind."

Boaz went over to talk to Ruth. "Stay right here with the other women and glean in my field. Don't go to any other field. And if you get thirsty, help yourself to the water."

"Oh, thank you," said Ruth as she bowed her head. Then she asked, "Why are you so kind to me? I'm only a foreigner in this land."

"Yes, I know," said Boaz. "I also know all about your love and kindness to your mother-in-law. I know, too, you left your home and gods in Moab and came here to worship the true God of Israel."

"Thank you, thank you," Ruth replied. "You are so good to me."

When it was noon and time to eat, Boaz invited Ruth to eat lunch with his servants. He also told his workers to leave extra grain for her.

By evening Ruth had a whole bushel of grain. She could hardly wait to get home and show Naomi!

When she came into the house she exclaimed, "Look! Look what I have brought, Naomi. When we sell this, we will have money to buy food."

"Where did you ever get so much grain?" asked Naomi. Ruth told her all about Boaz and his kindness.

"Praise the Lord for a man like that," said Naomi. "Do you realize that this man is one of our closest relatives?"

So Ruth continued working in the field of Boaz until all the barley and wheat were harvested. When the threshing was done there was a feast to celebrate the goodness of God for giving them food for another year.

Ruth met Boaz at the threshing floor. "May the Lord bless you," said Boaz. "You are a good woman. I was related to your husband who died." Ruth listened carefully to Boaz. She knew that her husband's closest relative was supposed to marry her.

"Tomorrow," said Boaz, "I am going to talk to the other relative who is closer to you than I and see if he will give up the right to marry you. I would like you to be my wife because I love you very much."

The other relative agreed to let Boaz marry Ruth. Ruth was very happy to marry such a good man as Boaz!

Now she had a home of her own and plenty of food to eat. Boaz was happy too. He loved Ruth who was kind and patient.

And now was Naomi still sad? She was very happy for Ruth. Ruth and Boaz were good to her and took care of her. So Naomi's temporary name "Mara," which means bitter, was just temporary. She knew that God had provided for her, and made her pleasant.

And when Ruth and Boaz had a baby boy, Naomi was a happy grandmother who took care of little Obed. And what Ruth, Boaz and Naomi didn't know is that Obed would become the grandfather of king David, and David whose descendants many years later would be Mary who would give birth to the savior of the world, Jesus!