

“Under His Wings”

Ruth 2: 14 - 23

¹⁴ *At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar."*

When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over. ¹⁵ As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, "Even if she gathers among the sheaves, don't embarrass her. ¹⁶ Rather, pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don't rebuke her."

¹⁷ *So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah.*

¹⁸ *She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough.*

¹⁹ *Her mother-in-law asked her, "Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!"*

Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been working. "The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz," she said.

²⁰ *"The LORD bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead." She added, "That man is our close relative; he is one of our kinsman-redeemers."*

²¹ *Then Ruth the Moabitess said, "He even said to me, 'Stay with my workers until they finish harvesting all my grain.'"*

²² *Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It will be good for you, my daughter, to go with his girls, because in someone else's field you might be harmed."*

²³ *So Ruth stayed close to the servant girls of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.*

Ruth 2: 14- 23 (NIV)

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Questions for personal or small group study and reflection:

1. Why did Boaz show so much kindness to a stranger who was picking up leftovers on his property? Do you think he had an ulterior motive towards Ruth?
2. Was there a time when you showed kindness to someone you didn't know? What has kept you from blessing others like Boaz has done to Ruth?
3. Do you recognize kindness or blessings that come into your life? How do you react during these times? Are you humbled and grateful, or are you proud because you felt entitled to it?
4. Do you see God's hand of providence (God's sovereignty) in your life? If so, how have you seen it or experienced it?
5. How are you able to show hesed (loving kindness) to those around you in need of mercy, grace, hope, and compassion? Who is the Lord bringing to mind at your workplace, in your family, among your friends, or maybe even with a stranger?
6. What is a kinsman-redeemer and who portrays this in the book of Ruth? How is this comparison made to the Lord?