

"Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries"

Book of Ruth Bible Study

Ruth 2:13-23 & Ruth 3:1-3

Lesson #3

****INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the entire section of Scripture in Ruth before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God's word.
Most Scriptures are from the New King James Version.

13-14 Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and **have spoken KINDLY to your maidservant, though I am NOT LIKE one of your maidservants.**"

Now Boaz said to her at mealtime, "Come here, and eat of the bread, and **dip your piece of bread in the vinegar.**" So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched grain to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back.

• **I Corinthians 13:4-6** "_____ suffers long (is patient) and is _____; _____ does not envy; _____ does not parade itself, is not puffed up (with pride); does _____ behave _____, does not seek its own (is not selfish), is not provoked (not easily irritated), thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth."

Definition: "Have spoken **KINDLY to your maidservant, though I am NOT LIKE one of your maidservants**" – Boaz not only **SPOKE** kindly to Ruth, but he backed up his words by providing her with food for herself and to take home for Naomi. Boaz didn't have James 2:15-17, but he did have the law of Moses, which said to "**LOVE your neighbor as yourself,**" so that would mean **treating everyone with kindness and helping them** in their difficulties.

• **James 2:8-9** "If you really fulfill the royal _____ according to _____, 'You shall _____ your _____ as _____,' you do well; but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors."

• **Romans 13:8-10** "Owe no man anything except to _____ one another, for he who _____ another has _____ the _____. For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'You shall not covet,' and if there is any other commandment, are all _____ up in this saying, 'You shall _____ your neighbor as yourself.' _____ does no _____ to a neighbor; therefore _____ is the _____ of the law."

• **James 2:15-17** "If a brother or sister is naked and _____ of daily _____, and one of you says to them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do _____ give them the _____ which are _____ for the _____, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have _____, is dead."

Definition: "Fulfill the **ROYAL LAW**" – Jesus is our King, so the "**royal law**" is His commandment to "**love your neighbor as yourself**" and to love one another as He loved us. If you love Jesus you will keep His commandments, and all the commandments are summed up in "**LOVE God and LOVE your neighbor as yourself**". The Holy Spirit gives us the love of God in our hearts and the power to carry out the commandments, and keeping His commandments and **abiding in His LOVE** is proof that we belong to Him. So, it is a continuous cycle of **God pouring His love into us** so that we can keep His commandments, and our obeying His commandments keeps us abiding in His love.

• **Matthew 22:36-40** "'Teacher, which is the great _____ in the _____?' Jesus said to him, 'You shall _____ the Lord your God with all your

heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the _____ and great commandment. And the _____ is like it: You shall _____ your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Definition: “DIP your piece of BREAD in the VINEGAR” – I think I would prefer melted garlic butter or ranch dressing to dip my bread in, but this was a common practice in Ruth and Boaz’s day. Actually, the vinegar was mixed with oil, so it would be like a vinegar and oil salad dressing, so not so bad. A similar practice was still going on in Jesus’ day, as Jesus told His disciples that the one who dipped his bread with Him would be the one who betrayed Him, and it was Judas.

•**John 13:26** “Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I shall give a piece of _____ when I have _____ it.” And having _____ the _____, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.”

15-16 And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. **And LET some GRAIN from the bundles FALL PURPOSELY for HER;** leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her.”

•**Deuteronomy 24:19** “When you _____ your _____ in your field, and forget a _____ in the field, you shall _____ go back to _____ it; it shall be _____ the _____, the _____, and the _____, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. When you beat your _____ trees, you shall _____ go over the boughs _____; it shall be for the _____, the _____ and the _____.”

Definition: “LET some GRAIN from the bundles FALL PURPOSELY for HER” – This was a big deal! Gleaning in the fields was supposed to be just picking up the leftovers, but **Boaz tells his servants to LEAVE EXTRA for her.** Boaz went beyond the requirements of the law, which is something that Jesus taught us to do, also. Jesus said “If the law requires you to do such-and-such, go beyond the requirement and do more.”

•**Matthew 5:38-41** “You have _____ that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you _____ to _____ an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and _____ away your _____, let him have your _____ also. And whoever compels you to go _____ mile, go with him _____.”

17-19 So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about **an EPHAH of BARLEY.** 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.** 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.”

Definition: “An EPHAH of BARLEY” – An ephah was a unit of measurement that was over half a bushel, and would weigh about thirty or forty pounds. Naomi was amazed that Ruth could glean so much in one day, as that was an unheard-of amount.

•**Leviticus 19:36** “You shall have just (honest) balances, just _____, a just _____, and a just hin: I am the _____ your _____, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.”

Definition: “What she had KEPT BACK after she had been SATISFIED” – This was over and above what Ruth had gleaned - this was part of her lunch that she saved for Naomi. Ruth was not selfish in just eating enough for herself, but was thinking of Naomi as well.

20-22 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, “**The man is a RELATIVE of ours, one of our NEAR KINSMEN.**” Then Ruth the Moabitess 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.” 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.

• **Deuteronomy 25:5-6** “If brothers dwell together, and one of them _____ and has no _____, the _____ of the _____ man shall _____ be married to a stranger outside the family; her _____ brother shall go in to her, take her as his _____, and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her. And it shall be that the firstborn _____ which she bears will _____ to the _____ of his _____, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.”

Definition: “The man is a RELATIVE of ours, one of our NEAR KINSMEN” – Usually a brother, (but we are only told that Boaz was “a close relative” of Ruth’s deceased husband) would marry his brother’s widow, and her **first son born of this marriage would carry the name of the dead husband.** The Sadducees tested Jesus with a hypothetical story of seven brothers who each married the widow after each brother died, because they did not believe in a resurrection of life after death. It was a made-up story, but based on this law from the Old Testament.

• **Matthew 22:23-30** “The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, saying, ‘Teacher, Moses said that if a man _____, having no children, his _____ shall _____ his _____ and _____ up _____ for his _____. Now there were with us seven brothers. The first _____ after he had married, and having no offspring, left his _____ to his brother. Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh. And last of all the woman died also. Therefore, in the _____, whose _____ of the seven will she be? For they _____ had her.’ Jesus answered and said to them, ‘You are mistaken, _____ knowing the _____ nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither _____ nor are given in marriage, but are _____ the _____ of God in heaven.’”

Chapter 3

1-2 then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “**My daughter, shall I not seek SECURITY for YOU, that it may be well with you?**” Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our kinsman? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.

• **I Timothy 5:8** “But if anyone does _____ for his _____, and especially for those of his _____, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”

Definition: “Shall I not seek SECURITY for YOU, that it may be well with you?” – Naomi wanted to find a husband for Ruth, because, in their society, that was **the only way for a widow to be SECURE, by having a husband to take care of her.**

• **I Timothy 5:14** “Therefore I desire that the _____ widows

_____, bear _____, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.”

• **I Corinthians 7:39** “A _____ is _____ by law as long as her husband _____; but if her husband _____, she is at _____ to be _____ to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.”

Definition: “If anyone does NOT PROVIDE for his OWN, and especially for those of his HOUSEHOLD” – God’s word has many commandments for taking care of our parents and family members, including WIDOWS. In Isaiah 58:7 God talks about those who would try to “hide themselves from their own flesh”, meaning they did not want to provide for any poor relatives. Although this usually meant younger family members providing for older widows or orphans, in this case, Naomi wanted to provide for her daughter-in-law Ruth, to get her married and established in her own household.

• **I Timothy 5:3-4** “Honor _____ who are really widows. But if any _____ has _____ or _____, let _____ first learn to show piety (religion) at _____ and to _____ their parents; for this is _____ and _____ before God.”

• **Isaiah 58:7** “Is it not to _____ your _____ with the _____, and that you bring to your _____ the _____ who are cast out; when you see the _____, that you cover him, and _____ yourself from your _____ (your relatives)?”

3 Therefore **wash yourself and ANOINT yourself, put on your BEST garment and go down to the THRESHING FLOOR**; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.

Definition: “Wash yourself and ANOINT yourself, put on your BEST garment” – Naomi tells Ruth to put on her best clothes and perfume (anoint herself). Ruth has been working out in the hot sun all day, so she needed to get cleaned up before approaching Boaz. This reminds me of Esther, before she went to the king, along with all of the most beautiful young women of the kingdom of Persia. **Esther and the other young women were prepared for a whole year with perfumes and anointing oil of myrrh**, and of course, dressed in the finest of clothes before they could approach the king. This was far more elaborate preparation for these women than for Ruth, because they were going to see the king, but **it shows some of the CUSTOMS for women BEAUTIFYING themselves** in those times.

• **Esther 2:12** “Each young women’s turn came to go into King Ahasueras after she had _____ twelve _____ preparation, according to the regulations for the women, for thus were the days of their preparation apportioned: six months with _____ of _____, and _____ months with _____ and _____ for _____ women.”

Definition: “Go down to the THRESHING FLOOR” – The grain they harvested had to be THRESHED, which was a **process of throwing it up in the air so that the wind would blow away the un-edible part, called CHAFF**. Some forms of threshing used OXEN to walk around in a circle treading out the grain, but Boaz probably used the other form of threshing on the threshing floor.

• **Deuteronomy 25:4** “You shall not _____ an _____ while it _____ out the _____.”