



=THE BOOK OF RUTH=

Lesson 3

Ruth Gleaning

INTRODUCTION: Review the book of Ruth thus far with the pupils. Discuss the famine and the flight into Moab by Elimelech and Naomi and their two sons, Mahlon and Chilion. Review the price they had to pay for their backsliding. Then lead the class to remember the story of Ruth's returning with Naomi to Beth-lehem to live. We start the lesson for this week with Ruth, a poor Moabitess, arriving in Beth-lehem with Naomi, whose life has been shattered and ruined by her ten years of backsliding in Moab.

When Ruth arrives in Beth-lehem, she naturally needs something to eat. Since she is poor, she has to glean in the field; that is, she must go to the fields and get leftovers from the harvest. Let us notice this gleaning.

- I. **SHE GLEANED IN THE FIELDS OF BOAZ.** Notice in Ruth 2:1, Boaz was a kinsman of Naomi. The word "kinsman" means "kinsman-friend." He was a type of the Lord Jesus Christ in this passage. Notice also he is a "mighty" man. The word "mighty" means he was a "hero" man. Here again, he is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was a man of wealth. This pictures Jesus. The name of Boaz means, "in him is strength." In Jesus we have our strength. Ruth's gleaning in the fields of Boaz is a type of the Christian and the Word of God.
- II. **SHE HAD A DESIRE TO GLEAN.** In Ruth 2:2, Ruth said, "Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn." The Christian should have a desire to glean in God's field, that is, the Word. Ruth had three rights to glean: she was a widow; she was a stranger; and she was poor. See Deuteronomy 24:19.
- III. **SHE GLEANED IN THE RIGHT PLACE.** You will notice in Ruth 2:3, "And she...gleaned in the field after the reapers." The Christian should learn his Bible at the feet of those who reap, not at the feet of theologians who never bring forth any sheaves for Christ. (Teacher, stress the importance of the pupils going to the right kind of church.)
- IV. **SHE KEPT ON GLEANING.** Notice in Ruth 2:7 the two words, "hath continued." In other words, she didn't glean just for a while; she kept on gleaning. The Christian should live in the Word of God, constantly feasting from His Word.
- V. **SHE GLEANED ALL DAY.** Notice in Ruth 2:7, "even from the morning until now." The Christian should stay in the Word of God in the morning hours and glean in the fields of His blessed truth until evening.
- VI. **SHE WAS ADMONISHED NOT TO GLEAN IN ANOTHER FIELD.** In Ruth 2:8, notice the words, "Go not to glean in another field." This field was all she needed. She didn't need anything else. Oh, how the Christian needs to stay in the Word of God and not to glean in the fields where rubbish is thrown.
- VII. **SHE WAS ALLOWED TO GLEAN AMONG THE SHEAVES.** Look at Ruth 2:15b, "Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves." After a while the dear Lord gives us perception that we have not had before. Now Ruth may glean among the sheaves. No longer does she have to take the leftovers. Notice, the whole field is beginning to open to her now. When a Christian keeps on gleaning, keeps on gleaning, and keeps on gleaning, God soon opens the Bible up to him and gives him deeper truths.
- VIII. **SHE THEN GOT SOME HANDFULS OF PURPOSE.** In Ruth 2:16a, notice the words, "And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her." When Boaz saw she meant business, he told the reapers to drop some

barley seemingly accidentally so that she could get more. This is the way the dear Lord is. After He lets us glean among the sheaves and we continue to glean, He gives us some special jewels of Scriptural truths and teachings.

- IX. **SHE “BEAT OUT” WHAT SHE GLEANED.** Notice in Ruth 2:17a, “So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned.” God wants us, when we have gleaned from his Word, to meditate on it and get everything we can from every bit of the harvest.
- X. **IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT SHE HAD BEEN GLEANING.** Notice Ruth 2:18b, “And her mother in law saw what she had gleaned.” When she came home, she no doubt had barley in her hair; she smelled like barley; barley was in her shoes and all over her body. This is true when someone has gleaned in the Word of God. It is obvious to the world and especially to God’s people. They can tell what we have gleaned.
- XI. **SHE WAS ASKED WHERE SHE HAD GLEANED.** Notice in Ruth 2:19b, “Where hast thou gleaned to day?” Ask your pupils where they have gleaned this past week. What books have they read? How much Bible have they read? This is so vital.