

In the second chapter of Ruth we see her story taking on new complications, as well as sovereign solutions. Ten years earlier things got so bad in Bethlehem due to famine, that Naomi migrated into enemy territory with her husband and two sons in order to survive. While living in Moab her two sons married Moabite women. However, her husband died and she became a widow, then lost both of her married sons before either had fathered a child. In chapter two we see Naomi returning to the land of her birth with her daughter-in-law (Ruth) from the despised country of Moab.

Ruth 2

The Good Hand of the LORD

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

God is always at work. In our finite minds, with limited perspective, we can perceive things happen by accident or coincidence, but in the grand scheme of things, God is involved and working to purpose things to His glory. Often, our understanding comes after the fog from our situation clears. Only then can we begin to see, although in part, God's bigger picture.

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

SHARE about a time in your life when you took a risk and did something that was difficult or dangerous. **WHAT** was the result?

WHEN you find yourself in risky situations, **DO** you rely more on God's strength and guidance or your own?

CAN you recall an experience when you took a step of faith and learned something new about yourself, or about God, as a result?

HOW convinced are you that God wants to be involved in your life?

WHAT purposes and plans of the Lord's (that you might be in the midst of right now) do you believe He wants to work out through you currently?

Ruth 2

The Good Hand of the LORD

Read Ruth 2

OBSERVATION

When Ruth and Naomi return to Bethlehem, what time of year is it (1:22)?

Whose field does Ruth happen to come upon(2:1)?

List all the details you can gather from the text about Boaz?

In what ways does Boaz make special provisions for Ruth?

How much grain does Ruth end up with at the end of the day?

What do we discover about Boaz at the end of this chapter (2:20)?

INTERPRETATION

What was the purpose of gleaning and why did God's Law make provision to allow this practice? (Leviticus 19:9-10; 23:22; Deuteronomy 24:19-21)

Why is it important that Boaz is of the clan of Elimelech? What insight does Deuteronomy 25:5-10 give us?

Why were Naomi and Ruth in such danger (see verse 22) and why do you think Boaz treated them so kindly?

Why does the passage continually remind us that Ruth is from Moab?

What do you know about Boaz and his family line (see Matthew 1:5 and recall the story from Joshua 2)?

Consider what things Boaz and Ruth may have had in common regarding how they were viewed by others in society (hint: keep in mind their family of origin).

In what different ways can you see the Lord's plan play out in this seemingly random encounter between Ruth and Boaz? What insight does Naomi's description of Boaz give us in verse 20?

APPLICATION

How has God worked through various circumstances in your life to redeem situations and show Himself faithful?

How can *you* grow in your personal faith to see ALL situations as opportunities in the work of the Lord?