

Week 5: When God writes your Love Story

Opening.

Our world operates on several divine principles that impact our lives daily, and understanding these realities will help us build lasting and more meaningful relationships. In other words, we must understand that God is the Master designer of our most sacred relationships based on virtuous realities. The first of these virtuous realities is simple: Your obedience to God's plan opens his provision for your life. In this sermon and text we observe a beautiful picture of this truth. Ruth 2 illuminates the relationship between our actions and the providence of God.

Scripture. Ruth 2 (*read the whole chapter*)

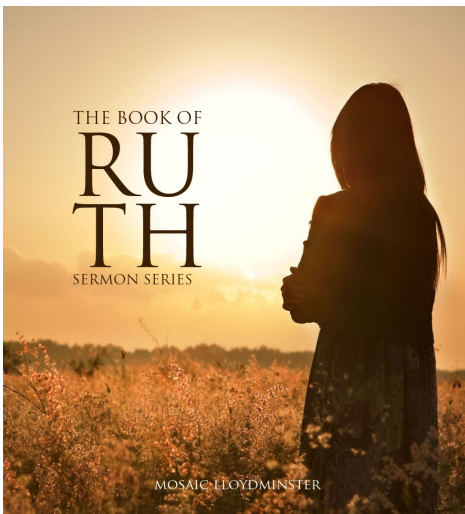
Observation.

- **God faithfully orchestrates His plan for our lives.** The last verse of chapter 1 tells us that Naomi and Ruth returned to Bethlehem at the start of the barley harvest. Barley was the primary ingredient to make bread in the Middle East, and it was also the primary crop of Bethlehem—hence the name “beth” (house) “lekhem” (bread). God's timing for their return was impeccable. They, as widows, needed the season of harvest to live [March – July] to sustain themselves for the rest of the year. Unlike in Moab, the Israelites have a rule called *gleaning* (read Leviticus 19:9-10). God used that *rule* to initially provide for their needs.
- **God directs the paths of the righteous .** Ruth decide to glean at Boaz's fields (verse 2-3). Ruth did not know that the field she entered was owned by a rich man named Boaz, who also happened to be her late father in law, Elimelech's relative (verse 1). Just as Boaz arrived and greeted his workers, he took notice of the “young woman” gleaning at the outer edges.
- **God prepares and guards His provision in advance.** In verses 8-9, Boaz, knowing that Ruth was the woman who came back from Moab with Naomi, shows kindness to her. In verse 10, Ruth was surprised at Boaz's kindness to a foreigner like her, and he discloses in verses 11-13 that he was related to Naomi's husband. Boaz asked Ruth to have lunch with him and his workers. After threshing the barley she harvested Ruth returned home; and Naomi was surprised at how much Ruth brought home (13 kilos of barley flour).
- **God blesses His people in ways they cannot conceive.** In verses 19-23, Naomi explained the special position that Boaz had over them, calling him “guardian-redeemer” which comes from an Israelite law given by God in Leviticus 25:25-55. A guardian redeemer is a relative who, at his own expense, pays off the debts of another. God raised Boaz for a role that He wants him to play in Ruth's life, and the future of His people.

Application.

- *God's plans are infinitely better than ours.* How can you learn to fully trust in God's plan? How do you determine whether you're just pursuing your plans and not God's?
- *God's directions are clearer than ours.* Read Proverbs 3:5-6. It tells us that the more we trust in God, the clearer His directions become for us. How do you grown and develop a heart that trusts God fully?
- *God's provisions for you have your name on them.* When you trust and obey God, He will provide for you. What areas do you struggle to trust God in?
- *God's blessings are beyond our imaginations.* How do you envision God blessing you?

Prayer. Is there an area of your life that you need to surrender to God?



SCRIPTURE

Ruth 2

1 Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek, whose name was Boaz.

2 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor." Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter."

3 So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek.

4 Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The Lord be with you!" "The Lord bless you!" they answered.

5 Boaz asked the overseer of his harvesters, "Who does that young woman belong to?"

6 The overseer replied, "She is the Moabite who came back from Moab with Naomi."