

LESSON 5: RICH IN MERCY

Intro:

Big Idea: God, who is rich in _____, uses His _____ to display mercy.

⁴But God, being rich in mercy, ... ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. **Ephesians 2**

- God is rich in mercy, there is no _____ that mercy.
- That mercy is revealed in our _____ - regeneration & justification (vv. 4-9).
- Our salvation is not _____ by our _____.
- Our salvation is the _____ of our good works. God _____ us in Christ for good works.
- God _____ those works beforehand. It is for us to _____ in them.
- Prepared _____ for us to reveal He is rich in mercy.

Recap: Naomi believes God is against her, not for her. Ruth has willingly come under the shelter of His wings, risking all to leave Moab and live in Judah with Naomi. She was led by God to glean in the fields of Boaz who has heard of her kindness to Naomi.

Mercy on Display

¹⁴And at mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine.” So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. ¹⁵When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. ¹⁶And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her.”

- Boaz approached her during the mid-day _____.
- He offered her bread, wine & roasted _____. Boaz begins to _____ his own prayer for her. (see James 2:15-16)
- More than a meal, she is being _____ by Boaz into the tribal _____.
- Boaz was rich in mercy toward Ruth in _____ ways.
- She was able to _____ her _____. Given abundant food.
- We see her as _____. She does not linger after her meal is down. Everyone else is still relaxing. She is providing for her _____.
- After she returns to gleaning, Boaz instructs the men to let her glean among the _____. Provides her special _____.

- There are not to put her to shame, insult or humiliate her. _____ her.
- They were to purposely _____ stalks out for her to glean.
- They were not to _____ or _____ her for picking them up.

“We have eyes but do not easily see what Boaz saw, because we are not looking for the poor and the outcast.” **Iain Duguid**³⁶
“Boaz treated Ruth not as a lowly (handmaid) but as a member of his own entourage.” **Robert Hubbard**³⁷

¹⁷ So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. ¹⁸ And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied.

- Ruth gleaned into the evening. But she wasn't done _____.
- She had to _____ the grain she had gleaned.
- After the grain is removed from the stalk, it is _____ or tossed in the air so the wind will blow away the _____.
- When she was done she had 3/5 of a bushel or _____ of grain. Archeologists have discovered jars marked with this word (*bt*). This is an amazing amount of grain for less than a full day's work.
- She gave her _____ to Naomi, who didn't work, instead of keeping them for herself. She is _____ as well as industrious.

“It may clarify the issue if we recognize that Ruth brought home somewhere between twenty-nine and fifty pounds of grain, or several weeks' worth of food for the average worker. To put it more vividly in our culture, the bag she brought home was the size of a colossal bag of dog food.” **Iain Duguid**³⁸

De-Briefing & Blessing

¹⁹ And her mother-in-law said to her, “Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man 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.” ²⁰ And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “May he be blessed by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!” Naomi also said to her, “The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers.” ²¹ And Ruth the Moabite said, “Besides, he said to me, ‘You shall keep close by my young men

³⁶ Duguid, pp. 161.

³⁷ Hubbard, pp. 173.

³⁸ Duguid, pp. 161.

until they have finished all my harvest.”²² And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, “It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted.”²³ So she kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

- Naomi, _____ by the bounty, asks where she gleaned.
- “*May he be blessed by the LORD*” is a variant of the servant’s blessing after discovering Rebekah in Gen. 24. The author may be alluding to _____ by this use.
- Naomi recognizes that this bounty was not only the fruit of her labor, but of another’s _____ as well.
- Naomi discovers it is Boaz who has not _____ her, her husband or sons but shown them _____.
- “*whose kindness has not forsaken the living and the dead.*” Is a vague merism. The figure of speak refers to the _____ but mentions the _____. Who does this is vague: YHWH or Boaz? YHWH thru Boaz. Both willed this though possibly for different reasons.
- Boaz serves as a _____ of _____ who provides us with protection and provision in addition to the pardon of sins.
- Naomi mentions that Boaz is a _____ and therefore a _____ (again, think Jesus).

“God’s grace has a human face. . . . We become the face of a gracious God to all whom God brings across our path. Our displays of kindness to all manner of people proceed from the security that God grants his people in Jesus Christ.” **Dean Ulrich**³⁹

The Kinsman Redeemer

⁸ And you shall speak to the people of Israel, saying, ‘If a man dies and has no son, then you shall transfer his inheritance to his daughter. ⁹ And if he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers. ¹⁰ And if he has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father's brothers. ¹¹ And if his father has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to the nearest kinsman of his clan, and he shall possess it. And it shall be for the people of Israel a statute and rule, as the LORD commanded Moses.’” **Numbers 27**

- The most important thing in an _____ society is _____. The land was not to be permanently sold.
- The next in line would be his brothers.
- If he had no brothers, then the nearest _____ would receive it as his possession.

³⁹ Ulrich, pp. 67-8.

²⁵“If your brother becomes poor and sells part of his property, then his nearest redeemer shall come and redeem what his brother has sold... ³⁵“If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you. ³⁶Take no interest from him or profit, but fear your God, that your brother may live beside you. **Leviticus 25**

- Additionally the kinsman redeemer could _____ all the poor man has _____.
- The _____ family was to care for the poor person.
- “*Stay close to my young men*” => “*go out with his young women*” => “*kept close to the young women*” Was she seeking to protect Ruth from unwanted _____, or keeping her for _____?
- This was for the duration of the barley & _____ harvests.
- The harvests would last 2 months. At the same pace, she could gather enough food to last them the year.
- She lived with Naomi during this time. She still didn't have her own resting place.

“Love does not ignore the law because it is more important than the law, or act as if it can abandon the law because its nature is to love. Rather, love shows what the intention of the law really is.” **Sinclair Ferguson**⁴⁰

Conclusion:

⁴⁰ Ferguson, pp. 79.