

RUTH IS NOTICED – PART 1

--RUTH 2:1-23--

INTRODUCTION:

This morning as we enter into chapter two, the history of the family of Elimelech continues. Remember Naomi had returned to Bethlehem with only bitter memories of her time in Moab having lost her husband and her two sons while she was there. Returning with her was her daughter-in-law Ruth, the widow of one of her sons and a Moabitess. Their return had caused quite a stir in Bethlehem as Naomi had been away about 10 years and she returns only with Ruth, a foreigner, having buried the rest of her family in the land of Moab. Ruth, however, has devoted herself to Naomi, promising to go where Naomi goes, to lodge where Naomi lodges, to make Naomi's people her people, and to make Naomi's God her God, and in the end to die where Naomi dies and to be buried where Naomi is buried. Ruth's loyalty means that she abandoned all that was familiar to her to go to a place she did not know and without knowing what the future held for her, but entrusting herself and her future into the hands of the God of Israel. This new chapter opens upon their new life in Bethlehem.

I. BOAZ INTRODUCED (Ruth 2:1)

- a. This chapter opens with the introduction of a _____ character in the history of Ruth.
- b. In this first verse we are introduced to _____. From this introduction we learn four important details about this man.
- c. First, he is a _____ of Naomi's husband, in my version he is referred to as a kinsman.
- d. Second, my version says that Boaz was a man of great _____. (Judges 6:12)
- e. Third, we learn that Boaz is from the _____ or clan of Elimelech.
- f. Fourth, we are told that his name is _____.

II. RUTH GLEANS (Ruth 2:2-3)

- a. Having settled into a house in Bethlehem, the first order of business for Naomi and Ruth is to find some _____.
- b. Ruth approaches Naomi and asks permission to go out and get food for them by _____ in the fields that are being harvested. (Leviticus 19:9-10; Deuteronomy 24:19)
- c. Naomi responds to Ruth by addressing her as her _____ and telling her to go ahead and find a field to glean in.
- d. As Ruth reaches the _____ outside of Bethlehem, we come upon a phrase that unfortunately is not handled well in English translations. (1 Samuel 6:9)
- e. Why does the author use this phrase? It is true that to the orthodox Israelite there is no such thing as _____. (Proverbs 16:33)
- f. We must see _____'s sovereignty in this because the fields had no fences, no names posted on them to identify whose plot it was.

CONCLUSION:

God's sovereignty and providence in guiding Ruth to Boaz's field is important for two reasons. First, as we will discover in two weeks that Boaz was a gracious man in whose eyes Ruth would find favor. Second, he was from the same clan or family as Ruth's deceased father-in-law Elimelech. In order for God's purpose and plan to be carried out, both of these elements had to be present. In long-range terms the royal line of David would not be preserved if the man at whose field Ruth arrived was gracious but outside of Elimelech's family, as such he could not then function as a "kinsman redeemer" preserving the name and family of the deceased. In the same way, the line would not have been preserved if Ruth had indeed found the field of her deceased husband's and father-in-law's kinsman, but he turned out to be a not the noble, gracious man that Boaz was, but rather an ungracious tyrant, driving off his field all foreigners, orphans, and widows. In the providence of God, the man she will meet is indeed a gracious kinsman redeemer.

Do you believe that God's sovereignty and providence are at work in your life? (Philippians 2:12-13)