

## NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

### LESSON FORTY-ONE: RUTH 2:18-19

**"And she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned: and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed. And her mother-in-law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned today? and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And she showed her mother-in-law with whom she had wrought, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought today is Boaz."**

Ruth took the 30 pounds of barley grain she had worked so hard for and went home to Naomi. We are not given specific information about where Ruth and Naomi found shelter other than it was in the city (v. 18).

If the widows lived in the typical house used by the poorest members of the community, their home would have been a single room about ten feet square. The walls were thick and made of mud brick or rough stone and rubble. Niches were built into the walls for storage. They had one door, which was latched at night with a wooden bar. There was probably one small window, located high on one wall, and it may have had a lattice to keep out intruders. The floor was divided into two parts: the front was packed down earth; the back was a raised platform made of stone. A fire for cooking and heating would be on the lower floor. Animals often slept on the lower floor at night. The upper platform was used for activities such as eating and sleeping. The roof was flat, made by laying brushwood across wooden beams and binding them together with mud. The roof could be used for storage or sleeping in the summer months. The houses in the city were joined together so that it was possible to run from rooftop to rooftop.

Naomi was amazed at how much barley Ruth had gleaned. And when Ruth produced the leftovers from her lunch with the reapers, Naomi knew something unusual was going on. "Where did you work today?" she asked.

Before Ruth had even answered her question, Naomi blessed the owner of the field where Ruth had gleaned. She was shrewd enough to realize the landowner had taken special notice of Ruth and facilitated her gleaning.

Ruth reveals her benefactor was Boaz. She had chanced upon his fields. And, he had looked favorably upon her and helped her.

God is always watching over His children. Any chance encounter can be turned into a blessing by the Almighty. No incident that happens in the life of a child of God is too small to escape His notice.

The Bible tells us, "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good" (Prov. 15:3). He sees everything that happens in our lives. And, He see our reactions, as well. God cares about how we respond to a tragedy, an illness, an unexpected setback, or a crushing disappointment. Do we turn to Him for help and comfort? Or, do we try to handle it ourselves, rail at the unfairness of it all, or become angry. Likewise, God cares about how we respond to unexpected good news, material blessings, or happy situations. Do we remember to thank Him? Or, do we recognize that He was the

source of that blessing? Or, do we forget about Him. If we only remember God and turn to Him when we have problems, that may explain why we have so many problems. It's the only way He can get our attention. Is, "thank you" in your vocabulary? Do you have an attitude of gratitude?

*"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him and bless his name." Psalm 100:4*