

NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

LESSON THIRTY-EIGHT: RUTH 2:14

"And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left."

Boaz, considerate employer that he was, provided meals for his servants. He invited Ruth to join the reapers at mealtime. Thus, she would be able to save all the barley she had gleaned to take home to Naomi. Otherwise, she would have had to eat a little of it, perhaps by threshing it in her hands the way Jesus' disciples did (Luke 6:1). Gleaning was hard work, and she needed to keep up her strength.

While Ruth sat beside the reapers, Boaz himself served her the roasted grain (parched corn), which was standard fare at that time. The wine vinegar, however, was a bit of a luxury, provided to enhance the meal. Boaz obviously cared about his people. But, he had a soft spot for Ruth.

And, Boaz was not shy about showing his preference for the lovely Moabite widow. He anticipated her needs and provided for them. Ruth was plied with so much food that she was able to satisfy her own hunger and she had leftovers, which she took home to Naomi (v.18). Like Boaz, Jesus provides for our needs abundantly.

Prophetically, Boaz and Ruth act out Christ's wooing of the Church, His future Bride. Jesus came "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). From the beginning, it was the Savior who sought out the sinner and not the other way around. When Adam and Eve sinned, they hid themselves from God (Gen. 3:8). But, He came looking for them (Gen. 3:9). And, when He found them He provided a sacrifice to cover their sins (Gen. 3:21). That animal sacrifice was a temporary solution for man's sin problem. Jesus is the permanent solution.

Boaz loved Ruth at first sight. Jesus loved mankind before the creation of the heaven and earth. Jesus proved His love by making the ultimate sacrifice (Eph. 5:25). He is the Bridegroom Who was willing to lay down His life for His Bride.

The love that Jesus has for us, His Bride, should comfort us. It should reassure us that He will not allow anything into our lives that is not in our best interest. We may not understand why. But, Jesus cares for us, provides for us, and protects us, just as Boaz did for Ruth. Jesus gives us peace to comfort our hearts.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Ephesians 5:25-27