

## NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

### LESSON FORTY: RUTH 2:17

**"So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley."**

Ruth worked in the fields until dusk. Then she took the stalks she had gleaned to the threshing floor and beat them with a flail (a long flexible stick), separating out the grain. She ended up with an "ephah" of grain or about half a bushel. It would have weighed about 30 pounds, and would provide food for many days.

Boaz's reapers, of course, ended up with considerably more stalks of barley than Ruth working alone. Threshing for larger amounts of grain was done using oxen. Two oxen would be yoked together and attached to a vertical pole in the center of the threshing floor. A boy would drive the oxen around and around the pole. The sharp hooves of the oxen shredded the stalks and separated out the grain. The root meaning of the Hebrew word translated "thresh" is "to trample."

As a type of the Church, Ruth working all day while it was light out is significant. Jesus, our example, told His disciples that He must do the work of His Father while it was day because "no one can work at night" (John 9:4). He was, of course, speaking in spiritual terms. "Day" in this context means the time when the Light was available. Jesus cleared this up when He said (in verse 5), "I am the Light of the world."

The world sits in spiritual darkness. It is sinful. It is morally corrupt. The god of this world (Satan) has blinded the minds of those who do not believe in Jesus (II Cor. 4:4). The blind, by definition, cannot see; they walk in darkness.

Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy that a great Light would come into the world (Mt. 4:13-16). God the Father sent His Son to be that Light. The purpose of the Light is to dispel darkness. It highlights the things that are hidden and makes them known. Jesus was sent to save the world and overcome sin. But, some people preferred the sin. They loved the darkness and hated the Light (John 3:16-21).

Jesus worked while He was on earth, teaching Truth and working miracles to prove He was sent by God. When He finished His mission and returned to His Father, Jesus did not leave the world in total darkness. He told His followers, "Ye are the light of the world" (Mt. 5:14-16).

Jesus is the Light. But, we are the Light bearers. We have been charged with spreading the Light all around the world. We have the Truth of the glorious gospel of Christ, and God expects us to share that Truth, not keep it to ourselves (Mt. 28:19-20, Mk. 16:15). We all have a story to share about how we came to know Jesus, the Light of the world, and what He has done for us in good times and bad. Jesus gives to each of us what we need when we need it. Others need Jesus, too. Share your Light.

*"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this*

*treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." II  
Corinthians 4:6-7*