

Timeline of Truth – Ruth 2:4-17 – Boaz Rewards Ruth’s Choices

<p>THEME (Overall Book Idea): God <i>always</i> rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - even when we cannot know what He is doing - even when it takes many years - even when God allows us to suffer 	<p>A rhyme that captures these ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God is <i>always</i> in control Though we may be <i>unaware</i>. - And God may work over <i>many years</i> And allow troubles <i>hard</i> to bear. - But God is <i>always</i> in control We can <i>trust His loving care</i>.
---	--

Two Memory Verses:

<p>4:14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed <i>be</i> the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel!"</p>	<p>4:17 Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.</p>
--	--

Ruth 1:1-5 – Trouble Comes with Life

We are impacted by large-scale and personal apostasy, adversity, and tragedy, but God is always actively in control. When the judges ruled (cultural apostasy), famine (widespread adversity), and deaths of husband/sons (personal tragedy).

Ruth 1:5-7 – Naomi Makes Difficult Decisions (A secondary lesson, but one that is evident here.)

We are to make wise decisions built from the truths of the Bible to honor God. Naomi had assess her situation, evaluate her choices, choose the most righteous choice, and act on that choice by returning to Judah.

Ruth 1:8-18 – Naomi Seeks to Provide a Better Future for Her Daughters-in-Law

God wants us to make significant, permanent, often costly life choices for Him. Naomi makes a selfless decision to send her daughters-in-law home; Ruth makes a selfless choice to stay with Naomi.

Ruth 1:19-22 – Naomi Enters Bethlehem (with Ruth) Greeted But Grieved

Circumstances that we cannot control (beyond our obedience) are controlled by God, and require us to trust Him. Naomi expressed her heart and circumstances and tied her circumstances to God’s ultimate control.

Ruth 2:1-3 – Ruth Seeks to Provide, and God Works Out Details

God works through our choices of active obedience and wisdom to accomplish His will through us. Ruth purposes to serve and provide for her mother-in-law, gleaning in the fields as allow for the poor and widows, and God works.

²¹ There was a relative of Naomi’s husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz. ² So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after *him* in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." ³ Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field *belonging* to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

<p>⁴ Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The LORD <i>be</i> with you!" And they answered him, "The LORD bless you!"</p>	<p>1. Boaz Arrives at the Field <i>Belief in the LORD is the _____ focus in the life of Boaz.</i></p>
<p>⁵ Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman <i>is</i> this?" (cf. Numbers 30:1-15)</p>	<p>2. Boaz Asks Regarding Ruth’s Protector <i>Boaz reaffirms the assigned _____ for women.</i></p>
<p>⁶ So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, "It <i>is</i> the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. ⁷ "And she said, "Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves." So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house."</p>	<p>3. Boaz Receives the Answer</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Response given by his manager b. Whose she was c. Where she was from d. What she had asked (permission, not entitlement) e. How hard she had worked <p><i>Boaz operates _____ and responsibly.</i></p>
<p>⁸ Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women. ⁹ "Let your eyes <i>be</i> on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn."</p>	<p>4. Boaz Instructs Ruth to Work in His Field</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Giving her Permission b. Giving her Peers c. Giving her Provision d. Giving her Protection e. Giving her Privilege (might have been for everyone) <p><i>Boaz actively cares for those in need in _____ detail.</i></p>

<p>¹⁰ So she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I <i>am</i> a foreigner?"</p>	<p>5. Ruth Questions Boaz in Grateful Humility</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Ruth's position</i> <i>Ruth's question</i> <i>Ruth's reason</i> <p>Ruth is aware that she is rightfully seen as an _____.</p>
<p>¹¹ And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and <i>how</i> you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before.</p> <p>¹² "The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."</p>	<p>6. Boaz Explains His Actions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Boaz remains aware (as a man & leader)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Of Ruth's care of Naomi</i> <i>Of Ruth's loss of her husband</i> <i>Of Ruth's leaving of family</i> <i>Of Ruth's identifying with Israel (as a people)</i> <i>Boaz blesses Ruth's work</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Invokes the LORD to repay her</i> <i>Invokes the LORD to reward her</i> <i>Affirms the LORD as her chosen refuge</i> <p>Boaz _____ those that live righteously, sacrificially, and spiritually for the LORD.</p>
<p>¹³ Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants."</p>	<p>7. Ruth Receives Boaz's Kindness in Grateful Humility</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Ruth affirms the kindness of Boaz</i> <i>Ruth acknowledges the effect on her</i> <i>Ruth reviews the reason</i> <i>Ruth recognizes her difference</i>
<p>¹⁴ Now Boaz said to her at mealtime, "Come here, and eat of the bread, and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched <i>grain</i> to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back.</p> <p>¹⁵ And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her.</p> <p>¹⁶ "Also let <i>grain</i> from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave <i>it</i> that she may glean, and do not rebuke her."</p>	<p>8. Boaz Makes Extra Provision for Ruth</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>14a – Boaz feeds Ruth during her reaping break</i> <i>14b – Ruth accepts the food, and saves some back</i> <i>15 – Boaz instructs helpers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>To let her glean among the unharvested sheaves (15a)</i> <i>To not reproach Ruth (15b)</i> <i>To let some harvested grain fall on purpose for Ruth (16a)</i> <i>To not rebuke Ruth [for any reason] (16b)</i> <p>Boaz provided the _____ for Ruth to maximize her time and effort. He did not remove the need for her to work, but allowed her to work as profitably as possible.</p>
<p>¹⁷ So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.</p>	<p>9. Ruth Works Very Hard, All Day, All the Way</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Her effort: she gleaned</i> <i>Her time: until evening</i> <i>Her completion: beat out what she has gleaned</i> <i>Her result: about an ephah (2/3 of a bushel; 23 liters); ~ 1 month's wages; what Jesse instructs David to take to his 3 brothers serving in Saul's army (1 Sam 17:13-17)</i> <p>Ruth takes no _____ in work, in time, or in process.</p>

- 1) The example of _____ exhorts us to care for the needy, and especially to encourage those who seek to serve God.**
- 2) The example of _____ exhorts us to work hard as we sacrificially serve others and as we ultimately serve God.**