

GLEAN AND GATHER

RUTH 2

Text: Ruth 2:7

Introduction:

The entire world depends on the labor of the field, and the king himself is served of the plow and the sickle. One can hardly live where the operations of farming are carried on, without looking up to the God of Providence in anxious prayer, lifting up the heart in grateful praise. Most today live in the city, and never give a second thought to how good God is to all in this nation with the abundance of food that we have not only to eat, but that goes to waste every day. Many city dwellers forget how good God is in allowing the ground to bring forth food. Let us never forget nor be unthankful for the bounty.

We have here in this story Ruth going to glean for food. Under the Jewish law, gleaning was one of the rights of the people. The farmer was forbidden to reap the corners of the field, and if by chance he left a sheaf by oversight he was not to go back for it, it was to be left for the widow and for the fatherless, and for the poor that dwelt in the land. It went further than with wheat and corn and barley. They were to only beat the olive tree once, and they were to leave the gleanings for the

poor. So it was with the grapes, they were not to clean the branches but leave some behind. May I say in passing, I don't believe that we are expected any less today as were they then.

Let's now go to the field and observe:

1. FIELD (A PICTURE OF THE WORLD)

A. Notice this is a field full of truthful promise, of blessings, rich and ripe.

(John 4:35) "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

(Matthew 13:38) "The field is the world; ..."

1. One must look in order to see it.

Boaz is a type of Christ.

2. THE REAPERS (A PICTURE OF THE SAVED)

Notice the reapers in the field reaping of the harvest that is already white.

A. The process of reaping.

1. Sowing

2. Watering

(1 Corinthians 3:5-9) "Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? {6} I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. {7} So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. {8} Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. {9} For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."

3. The increase is in God's hand.

- B. Purpose of sowing.

1. So that others will continue to reap after us.

- D. Promise of harvest.

1. You'll reap where others have sown and watered.

(Psalms 126:6) "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

2. You'll rejoice in the harvest.

3. THE GLEANERS (A PICTURE OF THE SINNER)

Notice the gleaners outside the gate, saying "Would that I might find favor in the sight of my Lord that I might even glean in this field, for I would be content just to glean an ear of Gospel Grace.

A. Notice the question of Boaz, "Who is this damsel?"

1. A stranger

(Ephesians 2:11-12) "Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; {12} That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:"

2. Miserable and poor

a. Cannot buy God's grace.

b. I can do nothing to win His love.

c. I cannot work for His grace.

(Ephesians 2:8-9) "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: {9} Not of works, lest any man should boast."

3. Nothing good within self.

(Romans 7:18) "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not."

B. Notice Ruth's response to the question

(Ruth 2:10) "Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?"

1. This gleaner is one that was humble and self-emptied.

2. Had a high opinion of those who were true Christians

(Ruth 2:13) "Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine

handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens."

3. MASTER (A PICTURE OF CHRIST)

The Master stands at the gate, and welcomes the gleaners.

(Ruth 2:8-9) "Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearst thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens: {9} Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn."

A. The Grace extended

B. The goodness exemplified

1. When you are thirsty drink of the vessels

(John 7:37) "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink."

(Revelation 21:6) "And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will

give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely."

2. Come and dine

(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."

3. Drop some the harvest on purpose for her to glean.

Close:

May I close in saying that for you that have called on the name of the Lord for your salvation that the fields are white already for harvest.

To the gleaners who are standing outside the gate, the master welcomes you in the field.