

## **Ruth Meets Boaz**

Ruth 2

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It was harvest time. Ruth went out to glean, to pick up grain left behind in the harvest. She found herself working in a field that belonged to Boaz, a wealthy and influential man in Bethlehem.

When Boaz saw Ruth, he asked his foreman, "Who is that young woman over there?"

"She is the Moabite woman who came back with Naomi. She showed up early this morning and asked if she could glean behind the harvesters. She's been hard at work ever since, except for a few minutes' rest in the shelter."

Boaz then said to Ruth, "Don't go into anyone else's field. Stay here in mine. I will see to it that no one harms you. When you're thirsty, help yourself to some of our water, and join us for our mid-day meal. I know what you've done for your mother-in-law, Naomi, since the death of your husband. May the Lord reward you fully."

Boaz ordered his men, "Let her glean where there is still plenty of grain on the ground. In fact, leave extra grain behind for her to pick up."

Ruth gathered barley until evening. She took it home to Naomi who was shocked at how much grain she had gathered in a single day.

Ruth said, "I worked in the field of a man named Boaz. He was very kind, and told me to work in his field until the harvest is done."

Naomi said, "Oh, Ruth. Perhaps the Lord hasn't deserted us after all. Boaz is a close relative of our family, and he may be of great service to us. Do as he says. Stay in his field. I know you will be safe there." So Ruth continued to glean in the field of Boaz throughout the barley harvest and the wheat harvest.