

Faith: Trusting, Walking, Living*A Study in Ruth & Galatians***Ruth 1:22—2:23 (Part A)**

Read Ruth 1:22—2:23.

1. According to 1:22, when do Ruth and Naomi arrive in Bethlehem?

Why is the timing of their arrival a promising sign?

2. How does the narrator refer to Ruth in 1:22?

Scan through the rest of this week's passage. In what verses does the text remind us that Ruth is not an Israelite?

3. Who is introduced in 2:1, and what do we learn about him?
4. The phrase translated "man of standing" can convey many different qualities such as "strength, wealth, honorable reputation, competence,"¹ and nobility of character.²
How does Boaz's position in society contrast with that of the two women, especially Ruth?

5. Ruth takes the initiative to provide for herself and Naomi. What is her plan? (v. 2)

¹ Carolyn Custis James, *The Gospel of Ruth: Loving God Enough to Break the Rules* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008), 95.

² Daniel I. Block, *Judges, Ruth*, The New American Commentary 6 (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1999), 651.

6. The phrase translated “As it turned out” (v. 3) is literally “her chance chanced upon.”³ Do you think the writer really believes that chance brought Ruth to Boaz’s field? Why or why not?

7. How do Boaz and his workers greet each other?

What does Boaz’s greeting tell us about him?

8. What is God’s law regarding “gleaning,” or gathering grain that is left behind by those reaping the harvest? (Lev. 23:22; Deut. 24:19–22)

Who is supposed to benefit from this law?

9. How do Boaz’s provisions for poor, alien, widowed Ruth go beyond the law’s requirements? (vv. 8–9, 15–16)

10. How does Ruth respond to Boaz in verse 10?

Why is she so astonished? (You may wish to review Israel’s history with Moab in Lesson 1.)

11. What unexpected favor does Boaz then show Ruth in verse 14?

12. The kindness of Boaz toward Ruth inspires commentator Iain Duguid to ask, “Do we welcome outsiders like Ruth ... the people who do not naturally fit in our community, the way Boaz did?”⁴
Consider the way you view and evaluate people at church, at work, at school, in your neighborhood. Ask God to give you eyes to see and a heart to care for outsiders.

³ Robert L. Hubbard, *The Book of Ruth*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1988), 140.

⁴ Iain Duguid, *Esther and Ruth*, Reformed Expository Commentary (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2005), 161.