

(2:15-16) – “**And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not:**” Not only did Boaz allow Ruth to glean among the best of his field, he told the reapers to let fall handfuls of the grain on purpose so she could glean all that she needed – “**And let fall also *some* of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave *them*, that she may glean *them*, and rebuke her not.**” Under the law of Moses, God made provision for the poor and gleaning in the fields owned by the rich was one of the ways He did this. The farmer was forbidden of God to reap the corners of his fields and to leave that part for the poor. Also, if he mistakenly left a bundle of wheat or barley in his field, he was not allowed to go back and pick it up. It was to be left for the widows, orphans, and the poor. The same thing was true of their orchards and vineyards. Here in this second chapter of Ruth, we see this law of gleaning being practiced. The things recorded in this chapter are written for our learning and for our admonition. All of this is intended by God the Holy Spirit to picture the goodness, grace, and glory of Christ, our Kinsman Redeemer. As we have seen in this book,

1. RUTH represents all who are saved by the grace of God in and by the Lord Jesus Christ and based on His blood and righteousness alone.
2. BOAZ represents the Lord Jesus Christ, our Kinsman Redeemer. As Boaz was the owner of the field, Christ is the owner of all things. All the fields of this world belong to Him. He is the Master of all things. As Boaz was master in his house, so Christ is Master in His house, the Church. Everything is subject to Him. And He is the Master of the universe. We obey Him willingly; but all things obey Him absolutely (**John 17:2**).
3. The FIELD in which Ruth gleaned represents the Word of God in the Gospel which is sown by the Lord through His servants as they preach the truth to His people. The preaching of the Gospel is the scattering of handfuls of purpose, the purposeful distribution of bread gathered from the Word of God.
4. HIS YOUNG MEN, the reapers, represent those who preach the Gospel of Christ, sent out by Him to seek His sheep in the world, both Jew and Gentile.

As Boaz commanded his young men to let fall some handfuls of purpose for Ruth, even so, the Lord Jesus Christ commands His servants, those who preach the Gospel, to let fall some handfuls of purpose for chosen sinners. When a sinner is brought by the providence, power, and goodness of God under the preaching of the Gospel, it is no accident. It Christ working all things according to His purpose and will in the salvation of His people (**Rom. 1:16-17; 6:17-18**). His purpose is to glorify Himself in the salvation of His people by His grace through Jesus Christ, the Lord (**Rom. 8:28-34**).

**(2:17-20)** – When Naomi learned of Ruth’s success with Boaz, she said, “**blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee,**” and “**blessed be he of the LORD, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead.**” Boaz was kind to the living (Ruth and Naomi) and to the dead (i.e. for the sake of Elimelech and his sons who were now dead) as expressed by Naomi in the following – “**The man *is* near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen.**” And here we are brought back to the theme of the Book of Ruth – the Kinsman-Redeemer as portrayed by Boaz, a type of Christ Who is the Kinsman-Redeemer of every true child of God.

Naomi saw Boaz as the nearest kinsman they had. The word for “kinsman” here is “Goel,” a redeemer who was in the degree of kindred as Boaz was belonged the right of redemption, and therefore was called by the name of “Goel,” a redeemer. Such a near kinsman had a right to avenge the blood of the slain, to redeem their houses and possessions, if sold or mortgaged, and their persons by marrying them, and raising up seed to a deceased brother, or kinsman. Such was, and is, Christ to His people.

**(2:21)** – “**And Ruth the Moabite said, He said unto me also, Thou shalt keep fast by my young men, until they have ended all my harvest.**” Boaz told Ruth to stay by his workers as long as the harvest last. He knew he could provide for her and keep her safe as long as she was under his watch and care. This is the same as the Lord instructs His people to stay with His preachers of the Gospel and of the whole Word of God. Do not stray off to the fields where false preachers are sowing their dead seeds of false gospels (**Matt. 7:15-20; Gal. 1:6-9; 2 John 9-11**).

**(2:22-23)** – Naomi agreed with Boaz – “**It is good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens, that they meet thee not in any other field.**” She knew that Boaz would care and provide for her and Ruth. We must realize that there is only one true Gospel whereby the Holy Spirit reveals the one true Christ and His righteousness imputed alone for our salvation. There are a multitude of false gospels that make salvation, or some part of it, conditioned on sinners and not on Christ alone. So, just as Ruth “kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and dwelt with her mother in law,” we must keep fast by those who preach and believe the true Gospel of God’s free and sovereign grace. We must feed upon those handfuls of purpose, God’s truth as it reveals the glorious Person and finished work of Christ to save us from our sins, give us spiritual life, and bring us to glory. As long as we stay with the true Christ, He will keep us safe and secure, and He will provide all we need for salvation and eternal life.