

Ruth Chapter 2: Part 2

How to Glean God's Purpose and Provision for Your Life

Being filled with hope is not a fleeting emotion that comes and goes, or a state of mind that can change on a whim in regards to our circumstances. Being filled with hope is a steadfast trust in the One who holds our circumstances.

The hope we have inside us today should not just be a wonderful feeling, but rather a joyful assurance, confident of who our God is and what He says He will do.

If God (the source of hope) abides in our hearts, then hope should abound in our lives.

Embrace God's personalness

Boaz knowing that Ruth hasn't anything, if very little, to eat for lunch, invites her to eat with him and his harvesters.

Boaz gives Ruth a portion of his own food, a portion from his own supply.

God knows how much or how little we have, and has made a way for us to come to Him. He invites us anytime to come and share a meal with him—to come and receive a portion of what He has to offer that will sustain us as we go back out to harvest the fields.

Boaz accepted Ruth just as she was, and Ruth wasn't afraid to go near, because of his approachableness.

This isn't just another meal for Ruth, this was a feast to her!

Ruth went from hungry to full, sad to happy, worried to having hope. Her sad, depleted state physically and emotionally is now being filled and so is her spiritual state.

We have a personal God who meets us where we are, first physically and emotionally. He shows up at just the right time. It's often in the provision of those needs, we then come to Him for our spiritual needs.

God's perfect love

Naomi is overwhelmed by the visible goodness of God that has just been laid before her that she speaks a blessings over the one who let Ruth glean.

All of a sudden Naomi has a different attitude. Her mindset of God being out to get her is changing, seeing His willingness to provide.

We serve a God who knows His children, who loves His children, and is not an angry God, but rather a loving Father who loves us way more than we ever deserve.

God loves us with a perfect love, therefore we don't have to be.

God exceeded Ruth's expectations when she set out that morning. She was just looking for a field to glean in, but God not only gave her a field, He gave her a feast, and on top of that, half of a month's wages in one day.

What Ruth brought back to Naomi was just the first fruits of all that He had planned for them. Just like the day of our salvation was the first fruits of all that God has in store for us.

Seeing that bountiful grain, Naomi's heart was softening towards the Lord. She was transitioning from bitterness into blessedness.

By Ruth stepping out and allowing God to work in her, she also became the vessel God used to bring about the transformation in Naomi's heart.

Embrace God's promises

Ruth could trust Boaz to keep his word to her. Not only about his provision for her in his field, but also, as we will see, his future promise to redeem her if the closer relative wouldn't agree to take Ruth as his wife.

We can trust God to keep His word to us. All throughout Scripture we see a personal God making and keeping personal promises to those who loved and obeyed Him. And since He is the same God yesterday, today, and forever, He has personal promises over you and I today that will prove true.

Embrace God's power

We have seen the Lord's provision for Ruth. She has food, a place to work, and a place to belong. But she still lacks one thing...a husband. The last little phrase in the last verse makes this need very clear.

If God could orchestrate Boaz and Ruth's divine meeting, provide for Ruth in all of these ways, can He not provide a husband for her?

Is anything too hard for the Lord? No, our God can do anything! Nothing is impossible with Him.

And just as Boaz went ahead of Ruth, ensuring her safety and telling his workers to leave extra stalks of grain, God goes before us, causing anyone or anything to move and work on our behalf.

If Naomi was filled with hope at just the thought of Boaz redeeming Ruth, how much more are we filled with hope knowing Christ has redeemed us!

Boaz redeemed Ruth for the remaining of her earthly life, but Christ has redeemed us for all eternity.

Life is full of uncertainties, but we can be filled with hope. Knowing God knows us. Knowing He loves us. Knowing He is a Promise Keeper and the One with the power to make all things possible.

Resources: Esther and Ruth by Iain M. Duguid; The book of Ruth by Robert L. Hubbard Jr.; Ruth by J. Vernon McGee; The Wiersbe Bible Commentary; Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem; NLT Parallel Study Bible; www.biblegateway.com;

Homework Questions

1. Explain why being filled with hope is a steadfast trust in the One who holds our circumstances.
2. Though Naomi was bitter towards God, we can still see her hope. Would others say hope is visible in you? Why or why not?
3. How does God show Himself a personal God in your life?
4. On a scale of 1 - 10 (1, being never and 10 being always) how often do you come to God and receive a portion of what He has to offer? What are some things keeping us from coming to Him as often as we should?
5. We have a personal God who meets us where we are, first physically and emotionally. He shows up at just the right time. And it's often in the provision of those needs, we then come to Him for our spiritual needs. **Read John 4:1-30.** Describes these truths found in this passage of Scripture.
6. Do you view God more as an angry parent or a loving Father? Why or why not.
7. Like the stalks of grain left in Ruth's path, describe a time you felt God leaving a blessing in your path with your name on it.
8. List some ways of how God's love is perfect. Which give you comfort and hope the most?

9. In those hard seasons of life, how have you seen God's covenant faithfulness?

10. Describe a time God exceeded your expectations. What was your reaction to Him?

11. How can we guard against the tendency to view God's love based on our circumstances?

12. How can one's faith inspire change in someone else? Have you experienced this in some way?

13. List some of God's promises found in His word. Which ones fill you with hope the most?

14. What are some personal promises you felt God speaking over you?

15. Recall a time God did the impossible for you.

16. Is there an area in your life, you are lacking something? How are you trusting God to fill that need?

17. How do you feel, knowing your future is in God's hands?

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