

The Book of Ruth

Part 3

Boaz is Smitten!

2025-11-16



TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

Observation—*What does it say?*

- Ruth "just so happened" (2:3) to glean in the right guy's field! Review Pastor Doug's six prerequisites to discerning God's will (see [Sermon Summary](#)). Now, skim Ruth 1-2, making a list of every indication of Ruth's quality of character. Describe her. From what you know of Ruth, **which of those principles** was she likely following?

We're seeking to understand **how** God leads us and **how** we can make decisions which honor God. Let's consider a New Testamental example: 2 Corinthians 8:16-17. "**Why** did Titus go to Corinth?"

Titus went to Corinth **because** God put _____ into Titus' heart (v. 16).

Titus went to Corinth **because** Paul _____ to Titus to go to Corinth (v. 17a).

Titus went to Corinth **because** Titus himself was very _____ (v. 17b).

Of which factors was Titus **aware**: ☐ that God had put earnestness into his heart
☐ that Paul had urged him to go to Corinth
☐ that Titus himself was earnest to go to Corinth

Summarize the **complex interplay of factors**—known and unknown to Titus—which resulted in his going to Corinth "**of his own accord**" (v. 17c).

Interpretation—*What does it mean?*

- Was Ruth a mere puppet when she chose to glean in Boaz's field? Was Titus a puppet? Explain.
- Did God violate Ruth's freedom when He played a role in her choice of Boaz's field? Explain.

Application—*What do I do with this?*

- What is a decision you need to make soon?
- Are you: (1) ☐ following God in discipleship? (2) ☐ consciously walking in the power of God's Spirit? (3) ☐ seeking godly advice along the way? (4) ☐ applying good old common sense? (5) ☐ allowing the values of the Scripture to guide you? and, (6) ☐ not demanding that God give you a sign?
- If you would like to speak with a (free) biblical counselor, write to: BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com

Sermon Summary

Key Text: Ruth 2:1-23

You will recall from last week that Naomi has become bitter towards God due to the deaths of her husband and two sons, while Ruth has committed to follow Naomi and her God. The contrast between Ruth's declaration of allegiance to Israel's God, and Naomi's bitter outburst against Him, could not be more stark (1:20). Viewed side by side, there is no doubt that this young Moabite woman strikes a more honorable figure. In chapter 2, the Biblical author wastes no time introducing us to Boaz (v. 1). We learn Boaz is a wealthy and prominent man and relative of Naomi's husband, Elimelech. For those who understood the customs of the day, he mentioned Boaz's kinship ties to Elimelech because it implied that clan loyalty and its incumbent duties might cause Boaz to use his influence to help Naomi and her daughter-in-law, Ruth, in the future.

Under Mosaic Law landowners were required to allow the poor to gather grain from their fields (v. 2-3, cf. Leviticus 19:9–10). It was called gleaning. In Israel's economy this was God's way of taking care of the poor, and Ruth and Naomi were certainly poor. I want you to notice that this law is directed to the landowner (Leviticus 23:22; Deuteronomy 24:19). But God didn't make the poor recipients of charity. He gave them something to do. They had to work for what they got. Harvesting by hand is hard work and it's not very efficient. According to the Law, Ruth was doubly qualified to glean because she was both a foreigner and she was poor! When Ruth asks Naomi to allow her to go and glean, we learn two things about her. She wasn't lazy and she felt a responsibility to provide for herself and her mother-in-law.

Ruth "just happens" to end up gleaning in a field owned by Boaz (v. 3). From God's viewpoint, however, it was something else. He's going to make certain that she ends up in that field, but she is totally unaware of how He brings this about. I sometimes hear folks speak as if God's will for them comes special delivery from heaven. For the most part, God does not lead people that way. Now He can do whatever He wants, and He may occasionally lead someone that way (Jonah 1:2), but that is not how He typically leads us. Usually, God is directing behind the scenes and His will for me is not always clear. When it comes to God's will, this is how I look at it: If you want to do God's will, you are going to have a hard time missing it! Here are some prerequisites: You are (1) following God in discipleship, (2) consciously walking in the power of God's Spirit, (3) seeking godly advice along the way, (4) applying good old common sense, (5) allowing the values of the Scripture to guide you, and (6) you aren't demanding that God give you a sign.

It's obvious that Boaz is a man of faith (v. 4). God is at the center of his agricultural enterprise. When Boaz arrives at the field, he asked for God's blessing on his workers and his workers respond back to him in kind. It didn't take long for Boaz to notice a stranger in his field (v. 5). As the servant identifies Ruth, he portrays her as being polite and deferential (2:6-7). Boaz wasted no time introducing himself to Ruth and giving her special attention (v. 8-9). Boaz not only invites her to stay in the field, but he also puts around her "his cloak of protection". Ruth expected that they would all turn their backs upon her, because the Jews at this time didn't have dealings with the Moabites. But someone is showing her great kindness. Someone is overlooking her Moabite status and treating her with compassion.

But she wants to know why she has found favor in Boaz's eyes (v. 10). Boaz gives his answer. He had heard about this amazing woman. She is beautiful, devoted, and hard working. He sees all of these qualities wrapped up in one person, and he falls for her (v. 11-13). Ruth had turned from idolatry to serve the living and true God. Boaz realized this fact and it made her even more attractive! Boaz is smitten with her and gives her special attention (v. 14-16). There is no question that the narrator of our story is more interested in conveying Boaz's generosity than Ruth's industry (v. 17).

When Ruth arrives home, Naomi is curious how she had so much barley for one day's work (v. 18-19). When Ruth mentioned Boaz's name, Naomi replied that he is one of their closest relatives (v. 20). Naomi brings this kinship thing up for a good reason. She is thinking ahead. She is thinking that God may be up to something. And this future prospect is beginning to move her from being bitter towards God to being blessed by Him. There was a law in Israel which urged near kinsman, when possible, to rescue their close relatives from poverty (Leviticus 25:25).

There is another Jewish law which could come into play. It is called the Levirate law (Genesis 38; Deuteronomy 25:5-10). This law stipulated that in a situation where the man of the house had died, a near relative—perhaps the brother of the deceased, was encouraged to step in and marry his brother's widow. This would do a couple of things: (1) it kept the property within the family, and (2) it provided the opportunity to raise children in the deceased person's name (Deuteronomy 25:25). In v. 21-23, we see that Naomi agrees with the arrangement Boaz has provided.

What do we "glean" from today's message?

1. God is sovereign over the affairs of man.
2. If you are willing to do God's will, He will lead you into it.
3. God is not against romance for He has recorded this story of love for us in the Bible.
4. God cares for the poor and provides for them (2 Thessalonians 3:10).



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and the
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Biblical Counseling
and Discipleship**



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When and where will it meet?

Triangle Community Church (4216 Kildaire Farm Road, Apex 27539)

8³⁰am to 4⁰⁰pm on Saturday **January 17, February 21, March 21** and **April 18, 2026**

Questions?

Just e-mail Pastor Dan Clement at:
BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com

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Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

Let's use "Five Question Bible Study" to explore what God's Word teaches us about caring for widows...

Monday— Read Deuteronomy 10:17-18 & Psalm 68:5 to learn God's heart on the matter.

Tuesday— Read Exodus 22:22-24, Deuteronomy 14:28-29 & 24:19-21 to see the Law's demands.

Wednesday— Read Isaiah 1:17, Jeremiah 7:6-7 & Malachi 3:5 concerning neglect for widows.

Thursday— Luke 7:11-15; 21:1-4 & Mark 12:40 to learn about Jesus' concern for widows.

Friday— Read Acts 6:1-6 & 1 Timothy 5:3-10 for teaching on the early church's care for widows.

Saturday— Read James 1:27 for enduring teaching on our responsibility to widows.

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]