

Finding Hope in a God Who Provides The Provision of Hope

Romans 15:4 - *For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

Judges 21:25 - *In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

Ruth 1:16 - *But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God."*

Ruth 1:20-21 - *She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has witnessed against me and the Almighty has afflicted me?"*

3 lessons about the way God provides:

I. God is Capable of Meeting Your Needs in Amazing and Abundant Ways

A. Boaz treated Ruth with dignity and respect

1. He invites her to eat with the rest of the team - v. 14

Ruth 2:14 - *At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come here, that you may eat of the bread and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar." So she sat beside the reapers...*

"He welcomes her to the intimacy of the noon meal..." (K. Lawson Younger, NIV Application Commentary, p. 446).

2. He serves her lunch

v. 14b - *and he served her roasted grain*

3. He instructs the reapers to let her glean among the sheaves, and not to insult her

Ruth 2:15 - *When she rose to glean, Boaz commanded his servants, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not insult her."*

Ruth 2:16 - *...do not rebuke her.*

Deuteronomy 10:17-19 - *For the Lord your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe. He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing. So show your love for the alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.*

Psalms 133:1 - *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!*

Ephesians 4:3 - *being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

B. God provided more than Ruth needed

1. At lunch

Ruth 2:14b - *and he served her roasted grain, and she ate and was satisfied and had some left.*

2. In the amount she gleaned

Ruth 2:17 - *So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.*

C. Equally true for us today

Luke 6:38 - *Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.*

Psalms 37:25 - *I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his descendants begging bread.*

Ephesians 3:14-19 - *For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts*

through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

II. God's People Glorify Him When They Recognize and Rejoice in His Faithfulness

A. In His immediate provision

1. Ruth's leftover lunch
2. The incredible amount of grain Ruth brought home

Ruth 2:19 - *Her mother-in-law then said to her, "Where did you glean today and where did you work? May he who took notice of you be blessed."*

Ruth 2:2 - *And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after one in whose sight I may find favor."*

Ruth 2:19 - *...So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, "The name of the man with whom I worked today is Boaz."*

Ruth 2:20 - *Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed of the Lord who has not withdrawn his kindness to the living and to the dead." Again Naomi said to her, "The man is our relative, he is one of our closest relatives."*

III. There is a Significant Difference between Providing, and Providing Immediately

Ruth 2:23 - *So she stayed close by the maids of Boaz in order to glean until the end of the barley harvest and the wheat harvest. And she lived with her mother-in-law.*

Psalms 27:14 - *Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the Lord.*