



UNEXPECTED

A JOURNEY THROUGH RUTH

WELL, THAT'S LUCKY.

Have you ever been to a big worship concert with thousands of people? Or seen a natural wonder like the Grand Canyon? Things like this make us step back and think, "Wow! God is *big*. God is *great*. God is *magnificent*!"

And while these things are very true, they can often be followed by a little lie: "God is *too big* to care about my daily routine. God is *too great* to see my small problems. God is *too magnificent* to work in my ordinary life."

In Ruth, we see the exact opposite. We see God work through very ordinary, everyday experiences: a mother-in-law, a work day, some grain. Circumstances we could deem "lucky" or "coincidental," God deems significant. This is not amazing stuff - but God works in amazing ways through our seemingly mundane experiences.

IN THE BIBLE.

Psalm 139:4-6

Lord, even before I say a word,
you already know it.

You are all around me—in front and in back—
and have put your hand on me.

Ruth 2:2-4, 8-12, 14, 17

2 One day Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go out into the harvest fields to pick up the stalks of grain left behind by anyone who is kind enough to let me do it.”

Naomi replied, “All right, my daughter, go ahead.” 3 So Ruth went out to gather grain behind the harvesters. And as it happened, she found herself working in a field that belonged to Boaz, the relative of her father-in-law, Elimelech.

4 While she was there, Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters. “The Lord be with you!” he said.

“The Lord bless you!” the harvesters replied.

8 Boaz went over and said to Ruth, “Listen, my daughter. Stay right here with us when you gather grain; don’t go to any other fields. Stay right behind the young women working in my field. 9 See which part of the field they are harvesting, and then follow them. I have warned the young men not to treat you roughly. And when you are thirsty, help yourself to the water they have drawn from the well.”

10 Ruth fell at his feet and thanked him warmly. “What have I done to deserve such kindness?” she asked. “I am only a foreigner.”

11 “Yes, I know,” Boaz replied. “But I also know about everything you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband. I have heard how you left your father and mother and your own land to live here among complete strangers. 12 May the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done.”

14 At mealtime Boaz called to her, “Come over here, and help yourself to some food. You can dip your bread in the sour wine.” So she sat with his harvesters, and Boaz gave her some roasted grain to eat. She ate all she wanted and still had some left over.

17 So Ruth gathered barley there all day, and when she beat out the grain that evening, it filled an entire basket.

QUESTIONS.

- 1.) What parts of Ruth's story seem "lucky"? How was God actually at work?
- 2.) Do you think you've ever dismissed something God was doing as simply "luck" or "coincidence"? When?
- 3.) When have you seen God work through ordinary circumstances? Share an example.

Challenge: This week, try to live through the lens of God working in your everyday ordinary moments. When something seems lucky, give thanks to God and see how this shifts your perspective!

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?