

Finding Hope In A Disappointing World

Lesson Five • Ruth 2:1-17

Under the Wings of God

When You Hit Rock Bottom...

Don't give up; instead fix your HOPE on God's amazing grace!

Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barely harvest. Ruth 1:22

When You Hit Rock Bottom:

Step 1: Live by FAITH in the Lord! *Ruth 2:1-2*

Two Desperate Widows:

Ruth and Naomi are HUNGRY with no one to provide them with food and to protect them from harm.

One Woman's Step of Faith:

Ruth takes the initiative to GLEAN in the fields for food.

Gleaning in the Fields...

Was God's "WELFARE TO WORK" program for the poor.

When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God. Leviticus 23:22

When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the alien, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. Deuteronomy 24:19

He [God] executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing. Deuteronomy 10:18

And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

Step 2: Look for the GRACE of God at Work! *Ruth 2:3-17*

Two Remarkable Things "Happened" in Ruth's Life:

➤ Divine COINCIDENCE graciously guides Ruth to the fields of Boaz.

Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. Ruth 2:3

God's Hand in Our Luck:

Nothing in life "HAPPENS" by accident, chance, or luck; it happens by the gracious hand of God's providence.

➤ Divine COMFORT graciously sustains Ruth in the fields of Boaz.

Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants." Ruth 2:13

A Channel of God's Grace:

Through Boaz, God PROTECTS Ruth from harm and PROVIDES Ruth with food.

Why Did Ruth Find Such Amazing Grace?

Because Ruth sought refuge under the WINGS OF GOD!

Then she [Ruth] fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him [Boaz], "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

And Boaz answered and said to her, "...The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge." Ruth 2:10-12

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in You my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by. Psalm 57:1

The Lesson of Hope from the Fields of Boaz:

If we will faithfully OBEY, God will graciously PROVIDE!