

# Ruth

## God's Presence In Our Pain

---

**Sermon Synopsis:** Sometimes life doesn't work out the way that we want, but God is working even when we don't see Him.

### Intro: Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir

## Sometimes things don't work out the way we want

Now **Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man** of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, **"Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor."** And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." (Ruth 2:1-2, ESV)

We too can react timidly from our pain

## God is working even when we can't see it

So she set out 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 clan of Elimelech. And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you!" And they answered, "The Lord bless you." **Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"** And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest." **Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women.** Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn." (Ruth 2:3-9, ESV)

### God is moving **API!**

- He leads you ("and she *happened* to come to the part of the field...")
- He knows you ("Who's young woman is this?")
- He has a place for you ("daughter," "keep close to my young women")

God is always working and active.

Unfortunately, we can miss God because we are not aware of him, and don't respond.

## Ruth responds **AP!**

- A posture of waiting<sup>1</sup> (7)
- Identified with God's people (11c)
- Putting trust in God (12b)
  - Boaz is highlighting her *faith*

## God can heal the broken layers of our identity

Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, **"Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"** But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!" Then she said, **"I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants."** (Ruth 2:10-13, ESV)

The story ends with a switch in identity.

Grace chips away at our defenses

From surprise (**Why have I found favor in your eyes, 10**)

to confidence (**I have found favor in your eyes, 13**)

## **Le Miserables:** Jean Valjean

Like Ruth, to flee your false security, step out, and take refuge under His wings. In that place of gracious refuge, the hardened layers of identity can be healed

## **Jim Cymbala**

**App:** where is the place of your pain? (hint: where are you reacting).

How might God be inviting you to trust Him in the midst of your pain?

---

<sup>1</sup> Hubbard. 149