## Meditations from the Book of Ruth Part 8

We will continue in this message what we had started meditating from the book of Ruth.

"11 And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore." (Ruth 2:11 KJV) Here Boaz was reported about all the good things that she did. He told her why he is favoring her and care for her as follows:

- 1. She was a widow.
- 2. She was a stranger, as she left her native land.
- 3. She left her father and her mother and her land and her people in respond to the call of God. She was like Abram who responded to the call of God when the Lord called him to depart, "I Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. 4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. 5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came." (Genesis 12:1-5 KJV) Abram departed with his wife and with Lot and all the souls with them from Haran and went to Canaan in respond to the call of God. Ruth left Moab and accompanied her mother-in-law to the Promise Land, to Bethlehem.
- 4. She shown mercy therefore she received mercy. She showed mercy to her mother-inlaw, therefore she received mercy from Boaz as God promised, "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." (Matthew 5:7 KJV)

Ruth had a good reputation and she had worked for it. She was not planning that the people will speak good about her, but she did the things that would please God and what He inspired her to do. We learns here, what we do of good will be reported and announced to the people in a way that we even not aware off. Let us read and get encouraged: "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold." (Proverbs 22:1 KJV) Good name is better than riches. "A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth." (Ecclesiastes 7:1 KJV) Good name is better and more pleasing than precious ointment.

"12 The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust." (Ruth 2:12 KJV) Boaz here further wished her good and ushered her reward from the Lord. \* The Lord shall never forget the good things His people are doing. "10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." (Hebrews 6:10) \* God is righteous to

remember all your labor of love that you worked out for God's sake in serving and helping His people. God will keep records of what we are doing, for we know there are books of works in Heaven, "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." (Revelation 20:12 KJV) \* The message today is to encourage us to continue to do the same good work and not to give up. \* Me also today is encouraging all of you to continue to do the same good work, and to be assured and full of Hope that God shall reward you for all your kindness and diligence in doing His work and what He prepared in advance for you to do: "11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: 12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." (Hebrews 6:11-12 KJV) We need to follow the good example of others who preceded us and to learn from their faith and patience until we receive the promises of God.

"12 The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust." (Ruth 2:12 KJV) We need to observe here two things:

- 1. Recompense: Which means compensation for the loss of time, money and efforts.
- 2. Reward: Which means a payment for the good deeds that had been achieved.

These two things will come true in our lives as we trust and translate this trust into action when we obey God. Ruth trusted God, had hope in Him that all what she will do will be rewarded and she will be recompensed. Ruth took refugee under the God of Israel and expressed that in her commitment to go back with her mother-in-law to help her and to support her.

"13 Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens." (Ruth 2:13 KJV) Ruth, the more now humbled herself, and accepted that she is less than the rest of the girls who were working in the field of Boaz. She appreciated the comfort that she received from him and asked him to continue to give her favor with all humility. Notice here also the great comfort that Boaz gave to Ruth and what the great impact of such comfort to those who are humble and are looking to God to sustain them and to strengthen them. How they will be encouraged and receive a bonus that will push them forward to do more beautiful things and continuo in their commitment to the Lord to do what He had put in their hearts and what he instructed them to do.

Upon her request, "Let me find favour in thy sight", she received another comfort and favor from Boaz. "14 And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left." (Ruth 2:14 KJV) He invited her to share with them the lunch. The food was simple, bread and vinegar, and parched corn (not KFC nor Pizzahut, etc.). Many people they receive food at their place of work but they don't appreciate that. They will just throw or they just grumble, 'Oh every day the same food', but that food is equal to good amount of money and time, and effort to prepare. That food was enough for her to eat, and the extra that remained with her, she did not throw, but she saved it and kept it to feed another mouth in her house. She saved it for her mother-in-

law, she collected it and she gave it to her when she was back home, "and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed." (Ruth 2:18 KJV) Those who keep the left over they will have good amount of saving and will be always in plenty, but those who are good in throwing they will go more easily into poverty and lack of plenty. As well as the food that Ruth ate was simple, sufficient for her health and is not expensive. Many people after they work, they will buy expensive food, and they will waste large amount of money on food, while simple and less expensive food is just enough for them.

Ruth was hard working. \* Those are hard working they will be blessed by the Lord and they shall have increase, while those who make wealth out of vanity shall diminished, "Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase." (Proverbs 13:11 KJV) \* So we learn from the attitude of Ruth to work hard and not to depend on easy living without labour, to gather, to save, and not to waste resources. Wealth also will not come with vanity, cheating, abuse or take advantage of others. \* Those who are good steward to what they will receive and keep, the Lord will add to them more blessing. Put it in your mind that those who gather little by little they still they will have much increase.

Ruth received further favors as she humbled herself, "15 And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not:" (Ruth 2:15 KJV) Here Boaz commanded his men that they will not reproach her, nor to embarrass her, nor to rebuke her, but even he asked them to let bundles fall from them for her to gather them as we read here, "16 And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her not." (Ruth 2:16 KJV) He asked them to bless her and not to rebuke her. When we humble down, God will lift us up and God will bless us and promote us. The more you are humble the more you will receive favour from the Lord.

"17 So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley." (Ruth 2:17 KJV) Ruth worked hard, from morning till evening, and she gleaned a big amount. When she beat out into barley (the wheat with its shell cover) she got an ephah, a big amount, equal to twenty liters. She did a complete and diligent work. That was her source of food. In my travel to different places in the world, there are many plants, fruits, leaves, seeds, dates, fish, snails, animals or other kinds of food that can contribute for free resources for the people to eat. What they need to do, is to go, bow down, pick up, collect, process, store, consume and eat. The more we are grateful and appreciative the more God shall bless us and add to us.

"18 And she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed." (Ruth 2:18 KJV) What she had gleaned, she brought home to store it so it will be the food that God had provided for them to eat. Her mother-in-law saw it, and sure she was glad because their house will be again full of food, that can be stored and used in the coming months. Also sure she was happy with the food that she kept for her.

"19 And her mother in law said unto her, Where hast thou gleaned to day? and where wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee. And she shewed her mother in law with whom she had wrought, and said, The man's name with whom I wrought to day is Boaz." (Ruth 2:19 KJV) Her mother-in-law asked her where she

gleaned and what she did and achieved. That is very good attitude that parents and grandparents will ask and follow up their children and grandchildren where they are going and what they are doing. Naomi blessed the man who allowed Ruth to glean in his field and caused her to collect big amount of food: "Blessed be he that did take knowledge of thee." Naomi prayed for the boss of Ruth. Are you praying and directing your prayers for such people and in such a way? We need to pray for our bosses and the places that we are working and where our children are working.

You see such a blessing the person who would allow the poor people to come and to glean in his field. As they are generous and help others God also will bless them and refresh them. "He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor." (Proverbs 22:9 KJV) "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again." (Proverbs 19:17 KJV) Those who help and support the poor, God will bless them. Those who are helping the poor they are lending to the Lord. Therefore, we need to continue to help the poor and lend to the Lord.

"And said, The man's name with whom I wrought to day is Boaz." (Ruth 2:19 KJV) Ruth told her mother in law where she worked and she gave her information about the man. It is required that children and grandchildren will be frank and honest with their parents and grandparents and tell them the truth and answer them adequately. Someone else like this time youth and adult would say, 'Oh, off, why you ask me about my boss, I don't know, for what ...!' Parents and grandparents should not be intimidated if children and grandchildren become annoyed. Still, they need to do their responsibility to follow up and supervise their children and grandchildren, to instruct them, and to correct them, in order to ensure that God's blessings will flow in their lives.

"20 And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the LORD, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen." (Ruth 2:20 KJV) Naomi confirmed it again that Boaz is blessed by the Lord, for he allowed God to use him to bless Ruth. Naomi praised God for Boaz' life and she considered that the presence of Boaz now in the field and in Bethlehem is a kindness of God who had not left his kindness to the living and to the dead. Certain people that God will allow to present in our lives, to be considered as the kindness of God toward us because they are so beneficial and represent the gracious God in dealing with us; for through them we can receive the bounty of God.

"And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen." Naomi declared further to Ruth that the man was a relative to them and that he was one of their next kinsmen who can redeem the inheritance of her husband and her two sons, and who possibly can marry Ruth. Now God showed His good plan to that family. Now they can see clearly that God is restoring them back to normal and restoring the family.

"21 And Ruth the Moabitess said, He said unto me also, Thou shalt keep fast by my young men, until they have ended all my harvest." (Ruth 2:21 KJV) Further Ruth told to her mother in law the other favor that she received from Boaz; that he asked her to stay in his field and work till the harvest will end. "Thou shalt keep fast by my young men," means she needed to observe the work of the men as they are harvesting, then she will go and glean after them; that is why Boaz told her to stay in the field until they will end all his harvest. So she now secured a few more months of work.

"22 And Naomi said unto Ruth her daughter in law, It is good, my daughter, that thou go out with his maidens, that they meet thee not in any other field." (Ruth 2:22 KJV) Naomi here, put a clear discipline to Ruth after she confirmed to her to stay in that particular job, that she need to move not alone but with other girls. Senior people should put a clear landmark and boundaries to the young people to follow. She asked her to stay in the field of Boaz so that no other evil doers will come and disturb her as things was taking place in other fields. Ruth did not resent the instruction of her mother in law. She did not answer her back, 'Oh, I am old enough, why you still speaking to me such things, why you interfere in my life? Why you cannot trust me! .... '. Dear young children, be polite with your parents and grandparents and appreciate and value all the instructions and corrections that you receive from them.

"23 So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and dwelt with her mother in law." (Ruth 2:23 KJV) Truly Ruth stayed in that same job till the end of barley and wheat harvest, and followed the instruction of her mother in law, and she lived with her mother in law. Good to stay in one job and not to jump from place to place hoping for better. Such hoping from place to place to work means that they are not seeing God in their lives and what He is providing for them.

My dear and beloved: Such routine of life that from work to home may cause many to be upset and murmur and say, 'What kind of life!. Work from morning to evening, and one day off only.' But this is the life that God had ordained for us to live; six days we work diligently and we rest one day; this is the law of God, and as we persevere God will do miracles and provide for us and promote us in life, as we can observe here in the family of Naomi and Ruth. Here in the house of Naomi there was no TV, no parties, no friends, no Facebook nor You tube. How they can spend a good time? They spend good time in God's presence, in prayers, singing to the Lord, meditating on the Scripture, all these are ways that we can do to invite God's presence and God's blessings in our lives.

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your Word and your teaching that I received in this message.

Ask God forgiveness for all your sins, especially your pride, arrogance, lack of respect to elders, carelessness to do your responsibilities toward others, non willingness to work hard, your bad attitude in the work place, and your mismanagement to your time, your wasting for the resources, lack of saving, etc. Lord forgive me and I repent from the following sins \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Lord I commit myself to the teaching that I had received from your Word in this message to do and to act upon it in my life. Lord I commit myself to be humble, to work hard, to listen to the instructions of the elders, to save and not waster resources, and to be willing to live the simple life that you ordained for me to live, and to enjoy your grace through daily prayer, reading and meditating on your Word. Lord I commit myself to show the fruit of the Holy Spirit, love peace, joy, patience, self-control, perseverance,

gentleness, kindness, long-suffering, and the rest of the fruit so others will see Jesus in my life.

Lord I pray for my brothers and sisters who committed themselves to the principles of the message, recompense them and reward them for every act of kindness that they did and to their obedience to your Word and instructions.

Lord I pray that you will help us as a church to implement your Word and the teaching we receive in this message. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit to go forward to evangelize and make new disciples and complete the work that you ordained for us to do. Lord fulfill your vision to the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God'. Lord helps us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us and enlarge our territory let your hands be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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