



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Where have you gleaned today? ... by Gareth

READ RUTH 2: 4-19

- In order for Boaz or indeed any farmer to reap a crop he must do the hard work of preparation
- Part of the preparing the ground will be breaking up the Fallow ground. The spiritual context of this can be found in *Hosea 10:12* & *Jeremiah 4:3*. In essence seed will struggle to grow or even survive in unprepared ground. Jesus spoke about this in the parable of the sower - *Matt 13 1-23*.
- During the preparation of the ground it is a time of toil. Once the seed has been sown the time of patience begins as the sower of the seed waits for the crop to grow and ripen spending time ensuring it is looked after in the best possible way.
- The harvest can only be cut if the cutting instrument is sharp. Time is required to sharpen the instrument; once it has been sharpened it will be ready for cutting. *Proverbs 27 v 17* Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.
- There are two points to make about the above proverb. First, where two or more are gathered in His name, there He is among them (*Matthew 18:20*). Also, we see a similar meaning in Malachi, for those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard (*Malachi 3:16*).
- Returning to the analogy, If a knife is blunt, it still continues to be a knife, although it is less effective, less useful in service. Let us therefore be encouraged to spend more time together, exhorting, encouraging, praying, admonishing, sharing God's Word, praying over God's Word and the needs of our local church, that we become sharper, more cutting in the ministry that the Lord has assigned to each of us. Faith is a call to action she went to the field v2.
- Now Ruth initially started out to glean in the field of Boaz she did not know or see the plan that was mapped before her. Faith is a call to action Ruth went to the field v2.
- Ruth was hungry, "let me glean" v7 "*those that do hunger and thirst after righteousness shall be filled*" *Matt 5:6*. Instructed not to go to another field v8 Christ desires us to glean from His field and not the field of the self or the world.
- A place of worship (Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground) v10. Ruth was a stranger but found Grace in the sight of Boaz v10 how much more have we found Grace in the sight of Christ.
- Ruth is invited to come to the table v14: a place of satisfaction. Believers have an even greater invitation at the table of Christ. *Is 55:1: Ho everyone who is thirsty let Him come to the waters and drink.*
- A place of worship (Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground) v10. Ruth was a stranger but found Grace in the sight of Boaz v10 how much more have we found Grace in the sight of Christ.

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WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Week 37

- *Is 55:1: Ho everyone who is thirsty let Him come to the waters and drink.* Ruth gleaned in the field all day, v17 Staying in the presence of her kinsman redeemer.
- When we stay long in Christ's presence it is noted by others just as Naomi said of Ruth v19 where have you gleaned today? Naomi could see the blessing upon Ruth.

Events /Notices

- ▶ **Major traffic cordon** around the city next weekend due to papal visit. Recommend drivers consider an alternative arrangement, major delays also expected on public transport.
- ▶ **Prayer meetings** will take place on *Sunday the 19th, Monday the 20th, Tuesday the 21st and Wednesday the 22nd of August.* Starting at 7pm each evening. Theme during these nights of prayer is seeking breakthrough.

Extra Services

If you have children with you, these are the facilities provided:

▶ Crèche and Pre-school Praise

Our crèche is based on the floor above the Meeting Room with baby changing facilities and toys to keep your young child occupied if they do not settle during the meeting. Parents are to attend to their children at all times. There is a short and simple pre-school Bible lesson during the sermon for 3-7 years old in the Crèche (as arranged).

▶ Sunday School

Our Sunday School is open to children of school going age and operates during the sermon in the Sunday School room on the top floor. Our teachers have a Bible story and songs prepared for your child(ren), teaching them the need for Salvation and Christian living.

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD (Psalm 34:11)

▶ Tea and Coffee

After the Sunday morning service, tea, coffee and light refreshments are available on the top floor in the Hospitality Room. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it (*Hebrews 13:2*).