

DIVINE BLESSINGS TO THOSE WHO TRUST GOD

(Ruth 2: Selected Scriptures)

The Christian life is a call to trust the Lord in every season of life (Psalm 22:9-11; 62:8). But when our faith's journey lands on the path of crisis and sorrow, we tend to question the trustworthiness of God. During such adverse moments in life, we need to reflect on the story of Ruth who chose to trust the Lord and to seek refuge under the loving wings of our faithful God (Ruth 2:11; Psalm 91:1-2,4). Ruth's life and faith should encourage us to consider these divine blessings promised to those who wholeheartedly trust in Him.

1. The Blessing of God's _____

Since Ruth was a Moabite, she belonged to a sinful people excluded from the covenant blessings of God (Ruth 2:2,6; Gen. 19:30-38; Deut. 23:3-7). The Moabites incurred the hatred and curse of God because of their immorality and idolatry (Num. 25:1-3; I Kings 11:7). But because of the richness of God's grace and mercy, Ruth was accepted as a daughter of Israel when she abandoned the sins of her people and embraced the Covenant Lord as her Only God (Ruth 2:8; 1:16-17). When we trust in the Lord, we who were once cursed because of our sins are graciously accepted as God's beloved children (Ephesians 2:12-13).

2. The Blessing of God's _____

As Ruth battled the bitter grip of grief and poverty, God amazingly blessed her with His generous provision (Ruth 2:2-7). Since there was in God's law a provision for the strangers, fatherless and widows, Ruth availed of this benevolent law in Israel which allowed the destitute like herself to glean in the harvest fields (Deut. 24:19-22). When we trust in the Lord, God will not withhold anything good from us (Psalm 36:7-8; 84:11-12). The magnanimous extent of God's generosity is the giving of Himself as the believer's portion and greatest provision (Psalm 73:25-26; Phil. 4:19; Matt. 6:31-33; Gal. 5:22-23).

3. The Blessing of God's _____

In God's wondrous providence, Ruth found herself gleaning in the field of Boaz, who was a close relative and a kinsman-redeemer (Ruth 2:19-20). As a kinsman-redeemer, Boaz would rescue Ruth from her devastating poverty, secure her future and perpetuate her family lineage by marrying her (Ruth 4:9-10). As one author writes, we are gloriously redeemed in Christ because through God's sovereign orchestration, "*Ruth went to the barley field, met Boaz, eventually married him and had a son with him. That son became the great grandfather of King David, the ancestor of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ*" (Ruth 4:13-17).
