

Lesson Six: Kindness – Caring for One Another

(read Ruth 2:1-23)

1. Whom do we see Ruth interact with in this passage? What do you observe from their interactions?
2. We know from the previous chapter in Ruth that Naomi lost her husband and two sons while living in Moab and that she was considered “too old” to remarry (Ruth 1:12). How had those losses made both Naomi and Ruth vulnerable?
3. How did God provide, in part, for poor people like Ruth and Naomi (see Leviticus 19:9, 23:22; Deuteronomy 24:19; Ruth 2:2-3)?
4. How might these Old Testament practices guide us today in stewarding the resources that the Lord has provided us?
5. After Boaz learns about Ruth from his overseer (verses 5-7), how does he go above and beyond Old Testament law in showing kindness to Ruth (verses 9-10)?
6. Ruth is astonished by the kindness of Boaz – especially since she is a foreigner. What do we learn about Ruth’s own kindness and character through Boaz’s response to her (verses 11-12)?
7. Our kindness should never emerge from selfish motive or come with an expectation of receiving something in return. Yet kindness to others often becomes unintentionally reciprocal. Why might this be?
8. In verses 14-17, what exceptional privileges does Boaz grant Ruth, both directly and indirectly?
9. Ruth returns to Naomi with both a meal and about thirty pounds of barley – an extraordinary amount. How does this entire story reveal God’s kindness and care for the two women?

(Summary)

10. The kindness of Boaz had implications far beyond his and Ruth’s lives. Because of his decision to act with goodness toward someone in need, Boaz and Ruth eventually marry and become ancestors to both King David and Jesus. When the Holy Spirit prompts us to be kind – God is up to something even if we never see the end result. When have you experienced God’s conviction to show kindness to another person? What happened, and what did you learn about listening to the Holy Spirit’s voice?

