

Read Ruth 2:17-23

17 So Ruth gathered grain there all day, and when she beat out the grain that evening, it filled an entire basket. **18** She carried it back into town and showed it to her mother-in-law. Ruth also gave her the roasted grain that was left over from her meal.

19 “Where did you gather all this grain today?” Naomi asked. “Where did you work? May the LORD bless the one who helped you!” So, Ruth told her mother-in-law about the man in whose field she had worked. She said, “The man I worked with today is named Boaz.”

20 “May the LORD bless him!” Naomi told her daughter-in-law. “He is showing his kindness to us as well as to your dead husband. That man is one of our closest relatives, one of our family redeemers.”

21 Then Ruth said, “What’s more, Boaz even told me to come back and stay with his harvesters until the entire harvest is completed.”

22 “Good!” Naomi exclaimed. “Do as he said, my daughter. Stay with his young women right through the whole harvest. You might be harassed in other fields, but you’ll be safe with him.”

23 So Ruth worked alongside the women in Boaz’s fields and gathered grain with them until the end of the barley harvest. Then she continued working with them through the wheat harvest in early summer. And all the while she lived with her mother-in-law.

What did Ruth do all day (v. 17)? She spent the whole day gathering grain. **How much did she get?** Enough to fill up a whole basket.

What did she do with the grain (v. 18)? She took it home to share with Naomi and she gave Naomi her leftover grain from her earlier meal.

What did Naomi ask Ruth (v. 19)? Where did you get all this grain? Whose field did you work in? Then she asked the Lord to bless the owner of the field.

What did Ruth tell her? Ruth told her mother-in-law about the man in whose field she had worked. His name was Boaz.”

How did Naomi react (v. 20)? She again asked the Lord to bless Boaz for showing kindness to them and respect to Elimelech, her dead husband. She reminded Ruth that Boaz was one of their relatives.....a family redeemer.

What is a family (or kinsman) redeemer? The kinsman redeemer had several responsibilities as head over a group of families. One responsibility was to marry the widow of a family member who didn’t have a boy child and to hopefully provide a male heir, thus preserving the family line. Therefore, Ruth could ask Boaz to protect Elimelech’s family line by marrying her so they could have a boy heir. Without a male, the family line would go away because no one would have the same last name as the dead person – in this case, Elimelech. This custom was designed by God to preserve the critical institution of the family in Israel.

What else did Ruth tell Naomi (v. 21)? That Boaz was so kind to her. He even told her to stay in his field until all the grain was gathered. **What did Naomi tell Ruth to do (v. 22)?** Do exactly what Boaz told you to do. He will protect you. You might get harassed if you work in someone else’s field.

What did Ruth continue to do (v. 23)? She worked in Boaz’s field during both the first harvest and the second one. And she continued to live with Naomi.