

# A Daily Dose of Good News

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Today, this devotional will be offered online at <https://youtu.be/BagbV868Dnc>  
Additionally, if you'd like to talk about this Daily Dose of Good News further, or previous ones,  
have questions, or additional thoughts, please feel free to email me at  
[sara.wunsch@engagedbygrace.org](mailto:sara.wunsch@engagedbygrace.org). I'd love to interactively engage with you about them.

Good morning! It's August 10 and it's time for our Daily Dose of Good News which is from Ruth 2:1-23.

*Now Naomi had a kinsman on her husband's side, a prominent rich man, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain, behind someone in whose sight I may find favor." She said to her, "Go, my daughter." So she went. She came and gleaned in the field behind the reapers. As it happened, she came to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. Just then Boaz came from Bethlehem. He said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you." They answered, "The Lord bless you." Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "To whom does this young woman belong?" The servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the Moabite who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. She said, 'Please, let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the reapers. 'So she came, and she has been on her feet from early this morning until now, without resting even for a moment.'"*

*Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped, and follow behind them. I have ordered the young men not to bother you. If you get thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn." Then she fell prostrate, with her face to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your sight, that you should take notice of me, when I am a foreigner?" But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. May the Lord reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!" Then she said, "May I continue to find favor in your sight, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, even though I am not one of your servants." At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come here, and eat some of this bread, and dip your morsel in the sour wine." So she sat beside the reapers, and he heaped up for her some parched grain. She ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. When she got up to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, "Let her glean even among the standing sheaves, and do not reproach her. You must also pull out some handfuls for her from the bundles, and leave them for her to glean, and do not rebuke her."*

*So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. She picked it up and came into the town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gleaned. Then she took out and gave her what was left over after she herself had been satisfied. Her mother-in-law said to her, "Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you." So she told her mother-*

*in-law with whom she had worked, and said, “The name of the man with whom I worked today is Boaz.” Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “Blessed be he by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!” Naomi also said to her, “The man is a relative of ours, one of our nearest kin.” Then Ruth the Moabite said, “He even said to me, ‘Stay close by my servants, until they have finished all my harvest.’” Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, “It is better, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, otherwise you might be bothered in another field.” So she stayed close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests; and she lived with her mother-in-law.*

Here ends the reading.

I’m guessing you’ve heard this story multiple times before. But I think there are some interesting components to draw out today.

One is, how Naomi and Ruth interacted. Naomi continually calls Ruth “my daughter”, and Boaz, almost immediately, calls Ruth “my daughter”. So even though she’s a Moabite from another country, and not a region that was respected by the Israelites, she was welcomed as family. I think that’s really interesting, because at every opportunity basically, Ruth is pointing out the differences. She’s saying “I’m a foreigner. I’m from Moab”. So while she does not feel like part of the community and she’s very aware of that, she’s welcomed. She’s embraced as a daughter.

I think that’s really important for us to think about: who is around us, that at first glance seems like a foreigner to us? Who seems like someone that we don’t have things in common with, who seems different than us, and maybe unrelatable in that? Where can we as siblings in Christ- put our arms around each other and welcome them as “my daughter, my brother, my sister, my sibling in Christ”? Where can we extend relationship? Like Ruth, where can we extend beyond our comfort zone? Certainly moving to a new land, with new people, was out of her comfort zone. Now, I’m not necessarily saying you need to change countries and move out of Columbus. But where you extend a bit farther than your usual in order to welcome and embrace others around you and to form community and to form relationships? Where can you take some steps into a new area, into a new place, in order to do that?

Finally, to think of Boaz, as an example of Christ, even. Where do we feel separate from Jesus and feel like ‘I’m not holy enough for relationship with you’ or ‘I’m not good enough for this’ or ‘You’re God and I’m me, and there’s a chasm between us’? Where can we recognize that God fully embraces us? Despite our differences. Despite our sinful actions, sinful thoughts or sinful behaviors. Where can we recognize that in the midst of the differences we have with God, Jesus embraces us still, and gives us more than enough? Give us barley overflowing until we’re satisfied and beyond.

So those are some things for you to ponder today: in terms of relationship with others in community who are different than you, where you can extend beyond your comfort zone, how you can embrace others as siblings in Christ, and how Jesus embraces you- so fully, so graciously and so abundantly. And that’s great news! Have a great day everybody. Bye-bye.