



Ruth 2 “Under His Wings”

Intro:

In all of Scripture, but especially in the book of Ruth, we see the reality of God’s sovereignty and human responsibility working together. God is completely sovereign over every circumstance in this story. He is weaving, calling, and directing every detail for our good and for His glory. Yet at the same time, we also see the responsibility of Ruth and others to respond either in obedience and faith or in disobedience and distrust. In this chapter, we will observe how God brings Ruth under His wings—how He directs, protects, and provides for her. But we will also see how Ruth responds in faith and godliness. Our goal is to see the beauty and the blessing of seeking refuge, not in the things of this world, but under the Lord’s wings, and to understand how we are called to respond as He graciously leads and cares for His people.

V.1-7

1. God Gives: Direction

Chapter 2 of Ruth begins by introducing a new character, Boaz. He is described as a “worthy man.” Some translations say “wealthy man,” but both fall short of fully capturing the meaning of the Hebrew phrase used here: *gibbōr ḥayil*, which means “a mighty man of valor.” This phrase is often used to describe warriors in the Old Testament, such as Gideon. Yet Boaz is not a warrior—he is a simple farmer. Yet scripture describes him as a mighty man of valor not because of the exterior but the interior. Not because of his physical strength but his godliness. Now, not only is he one of the few godly men in a time Scripture describes as spiritually dark, but he also “happens” to be a relative of Naomi’s husband, Elimelech, and is in a position to redeem Ruth. And it just so “*HAPPENED*” that this is the field Ruth enters to glean. I love how the writer presents it ironically as if it were coincidence, because he knows well and we know well that this is not random. This is the gracious providence of God directing Ruth exactly where she needed to be.

2. I Respond In: Submission and Diligence

Though Ruth was a grown woman and did not have to submit herself to Naomi in a formal sense, she still demonstrates a gentle, respectful, and submissive spirit by asking Naomi for permission before going to glean in the fields. Not only that, but when Boaz’s servant reports about her, he notes that she has been working diligently from morning until then, only stopping for a short rest. She is not lazy or entitled—she is faithful and hardworking. When the Lord gives direction, we must respond by doing what He calls us to do, and doing it with **diligence**. Yet at the same time, we must place ourselves under the authority God has established in our lives—whether that be parents, employers, or church leaders ect. God not only calls us to obey, but to obey in the way He has instructed, in proper order and submission.

V.8-13

3. God Gives: Protection

Through Boaz, God provides protection for Ruth. By placing her in the field of a godly man, she is kept from potential harm. In other fields, Ruth would have been vulnerable to being taken advantage of. But under Boaz’s care, she is protected. This is not accidental. God, in His providence, not only directs His people but also protects them. He places them exactly where they need to be to protect them from harm be it external or internal.

4. I Respond In: Humility and Gratitude

In chapter 1, Naomi said that the Lord had dealt bitterly with her, implying that she had been treated worse than she deserved. In contrast, Ruth demonstrates a completely different attitude. She recognizes that she is a foreigner and responds by bowing her face to the ground

in humility and gratitude. She understands that she deserves nothing, yet she is receiving kindness. This is the posture we are called to have before God. We are to live in humility and gratitude in whatever season He places us, recognizing that He is God and we deserve nothing from Him. **Read Luke 17:7-10**

V.14-23

5. God Gives: Provision

Boaz not only allows Ruth to glean and protects her, but he goes beyond that and provides for her abundantly. He gives her water and food, even inviting her to eat with him. She eats until she is satisfied and even has leftovers. He then instructs his workers to intentionally leave behind grain for her to gather. By the end of the day, she collects about an “ephah”—roughly 40 pounds. This is far beyond what would normally be gathered in a day of gleaning. This shows that God does not merely provide—He provides abundantly for those who obey His direction, who take refuge under His wings.

6. I Respond In: Generosity

What does Ruth do with this provision? She does not hoard it or use it only for herself. Instead, she takes what she has been given and shares it with Naomi. Even though Naomi had been bitter and had not shown much care for Ruth, Ruth still responds with generosity. She understands that what she has received was not ultimately earned—it was given. Even though she worked hard, the strength, opportunity, and provision all came from God. God led her to Boaz’s field, and God moved Boaz’s heart to be generous toward her. When God provides more than we need, it is not so that we can hoard it, but so that we may have the privilege of being generous toward others. Let us learn from Ruth and not only honor God with our tithes and offering but always being generous with those around us when given the opportunity.

Read Proverbs 11:24 and Luke 172:16-21

Conclusion:

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! **How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.** Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!”
Matthew 23:37-38 NASB

Main Idea:

God, in His sovereignty and grace, brings His people under His wings—directing, protecting, and providing for them—and those who truly belong to Him respond in faith with submission, humility, and generosity.

Memory Verse:

“The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!” Then she said, “I have found favor in your eyes, my Lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants.” **Ruth 2:12-13 ESV**

