

Why Me?

“... Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?” (Ruth 2:10)

In our text, Ruth, a Moabite, asks Boaz, an Israelite, why she was singled out for special treatment since she was not an Israelite. This fateful meeting between Ruth and Boaz began years earlier when another Israelite moved his family to Moab because of famine. While there his two sons married Moabites and ten years later both sons died. Because their father predeceased them, Naomi, his wife, and both daughters-in-law were now on their own; one departed from Naomi to rejoin her people but the other, Ruth, refused to leave saying, *“...thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God”* (Ruth 1:16). Both encounters, one between Ruth and Naomi and the other between Ruth and Boaz, show God’s hand in the lives of people; giving them an opportunity to answer His call to become one of His children.

Clearly, God had exposed both Moabite women to His word through Naomi’s sons, showing that God will reach out to anyone—no matter who or where they are. The Word, however, so greatly affected Ruth that she would not return to her old ways; she left her family and friends to follow Naomi to Judah where she eventually met Boaz; she was answering God’s call. Ruth met Boaz when she gleaned corn from whoever would allow her to work in their fields. The very first field she tried (as God would have it) was owned by Boaz, a relative of Naomi. When he heard that she came from Moab with Naomi and that she was a very diligent worker, Boaz allowed her to gather all the corn she wanted from his fields, even having his servants leave extra in the field just for her. She finally asked Boaz the reason for his generosity. Answering, he said, *“...It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore”* (Ruth 2:11). Thus, it was her tender heart toward Naomi and her love toward God that caused Boaz to be merciful to her. However, it was not until Ruth made her full intention known, at Naomi’s advice, that Boaz made all arrangements necessary for her to become his bride.

Today, one might also wonder why God has chosen me to be His child since there are many who appear more worthy: those who openly call upon the

name of the Lord; those who outwardly display their faith in Jesus, often boasting about it; those who proudly point to what they have done for Jesus; and those who claim to know Jesus. Fortunately, scripture reveals that salvation is not based on how we view Jesus but, rather, on how He views us: *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity”* (Matthew 7:21-23).

Boaz saw in Ruth what Jesus sees in each believer: a tender heart toward God and our neighbor. Another example of this is King Josiah who worried over his fate *“...great is the wrath of the Lord that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the Lord...”* (2 Chr 34:21). Fearing eternal punishment Josiah heard from God through one of His prophets saying, *“Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heardest his words against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, and humbledst thyself before me, and didst rend thy clothes, and weep before me; I have even heard thee also, saith the LORD”* (2 Chr 34:27). God saw in Josiah what Boaz saw in Ruth. Thus, when God calls us through His word, as He did with Ruth and Josiah, we are given the opportunity to answer or to go our own way *“...I called you, but ye answered not...therefore will I do unto this house...as I have done to Shiloh...and I will cast you out of my sight”* (Jeremiah 7:13-15). We can rest assured that God makes no mistakes when He chooses believers from amongst the world-wide population because *“...the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart”* (1 Samuel 16:7).

God calls by awakening each person to his sin. At that point one either draws nearer to God, as did Ruth and Josiah, asking *“what must I do to be saved?”* (Acts 16:30) or one backs away as did Able when God pointed out his sin. Because God recognizes a humble heart He grants the penitent soul the grace to confess his sins and the faith to believe the proclamation *“...be of good cheer thy sins be forgiven thee”* (Matt 9:2). Thus, as Boaz did with Ruth, Jesus does all the arranging; even changing world events, to make sure humble hearts become His own—if we make our intention known to Him.

God's Peace,
Charles Korhonen

Nov 3	Ken Storm	Holy Communion
Nov 10	Ivan Niemela	
Nov 17	Ken Storm	
Nov 24	Chad Kuivanen	Potluck meal

Church Cleaning: Charles and Jane Korhonen
Sunday School/Adult Bible Study: 10am, Worship at 11am
Wednesday: Bible Study 7pm

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