

Devotional Thought

Week of April 13, 2008

THEME: A Kind Kinsman

So Boaz said to Ruth, “My daughter, listen to me. Don’t go and glean in another field and don’t go away from here. Stay here with my servant girls. Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the girls. I have told the men not to touch you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled”.

Ruth 2:8-9

Following Ruth’s decision to leave her homeland, she and Naomi returned to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest. According to the custom recorded in Deuteronomy 24:19, a sheaf left in the field during the harvest was to remain there for the homeless, the fatherless, and the widows. Ruth, being aware of the custom, went to the field of a wealthy citizen, Boaz, to glean in his field, where she remained throughout the barley and wheat harvests.

Apparently Ruth’s kindness toward her mother-in-law, Naomi, did not go unnoticed by God or the townspeople. Boaz was a man that honestly would not want the poor in his fields. Boaz may have been a generous man, but he just didn’t put up a sign and say to the poor, “Come in and glean.” But here is an occasion where he goes out of his way to urge Ruth not to go into any other field to glean. ***“Don’t go and glean in other fields and don’t go away from here. Stay here with my servant girls.”*** He also put a cloak of protection around her. He says, ***“I have told the man not to touch you.”***

Because of Ruth’s love and concern for Naomi, God moved in the heart of Boaz and he allowed her to remain in his fields and glean. Certainly his actions reflect Christ’s words when He told His followers ***“do to others as you would have them do to you”*** (Luke 6:31). Our kindness done to others, motivated by a genuine concern for the other person, truly does not go unnoticed, either by man or by God. As Ruth was blessed for her loyalty and respect for Naomi, and as Boaz was blessed for his kindness toward Ruth, so we will also be blessed as we reach out in serving to others.

Prayer: "Holy and loving Father, help us to practice the “Golden Rule” in our lives. Teach us the joy of giving and serving other with pure and unselfish motives. Move in our hearts that we may truly be a people of compassion. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Christ. **Amen.**

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