



HEBRON

Sunday, August 25, 2019

Dr. Landon Dowden

## **GOD'S FAITHFUL PROVISION, PROTECTION, AND PROVIDENCE**

### **Ruth 2**

- I. WE NEED TO REMEMBER THAT GOD'S EXTRAORDINARY PROVISION AND PROTECTION OFTEN COME THROUGH ORDINARY MEANS**
- a. God's reign does not eliminate our responsibilities.
  - b. Consider Ruth's initiation for provision:
    - i. We should pray for those we disciple to be more like Ruth:
      1. One who is willing to work. (2:2, 3, 7, 15, 17, 23)
      2. One who is humble (2:2, 7)
      3. One who is considerate of others (2:18)
      4. One who is faithful (2:23)
      5. One who seeks refuge in God (2:12)
  - c. Consider Boaz's initiation for protection:
    - i. We should also pray for those we disciple to be like Boaz:
      1. One who has a good name (2:1)
      2. One whose character is not dependent on circumstances (2:1)
      3. One whose godliness is evident everywhere and to everyone (2:4)
      4. One who initiates (2:8)
      5. One who protects and provides for those in need (2:8)
      6. One who is encouraging and kind (2:13)
      7. One who is generous (2:14-16, 21)
- II. WE NEED TO TRUST THAT ALL OF GOD'S PROVIDENCES ARE PURPOSEFUL AND SHOULD RESULT IN PRAISE**
- a. The main star of chapter 2 is God and the main point is that God is faithful to those who take refuge in Him.
  - b. The reason Ruth "just happens" to find Boaz's field and that Boaz "just happens" to come down from Bethlehem at that time is because our God "just happens" to be Sovereign.
  - c. A few lessons:
    - i. God's providence is both mysterious and wonderful.
    - ii. God cares for the forsaken and forgotten (Deut. 10:18) – and so should we.
    - iii. God is not interested in just changing our circumstances, but also our hearts.



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**III. WE NEED TO PRAY THAT GOD'S KINDNESSES TO US IN CHRIST WILL PROGRESS THROUGH US TO OUR NEIGHBORS AND THE NATIONS**

- a. Ruth's kindness to Naomi (2:11, 22)
- b. Boaz's kind to Ruth (2:10, 13)
- c. God's kindness to us (Eph. 2:12-13)
- d. Our Gospel-saturated kindness to the world (Gal. 6:10)