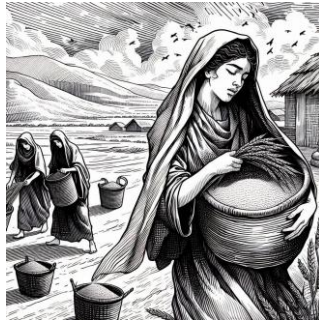


God Provides



So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about 13 kilograms. She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough.

Her mother-in-law asked her, “Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!”

Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been working. “The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz,” she said.

“The Lord bless him!” Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. “He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead.” She added, “That man is our close relative; he is one of our guardian-redeemers.”

Then Ruth the Moabite said, “He even said to me, ‘Stay with my workers until they finish harvesting all my grain.’”

Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, “It will be good for you, my daughter, to go with the women who work for him, because in someone else’s field you might be harmed.”

So Ruth stayed close to the women of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

~ Ruth 2:17-23~

Ruth and her mother-in-law Naomi had moved back to Bethlehem, but they had no way of making money or getting food.

But our God, the one true God of the Bible, is a God who provides. When God rescued his people Israel and told them how to live, he told them that when they gathered grain during harvest, they were to leave any bits of grain

they left and not to go back and pick them up, so that those who were poor and didn't have food could gather them.

That is exactly what Ruth ended up doing. She went into the field to gather the grain that was left behind.

And because God is sovereign – that is he is in charge over everything – he made sure that Ruth went to the field of Boaz, a godly man and a relative of Naomi's, who not only looked after her while she was working but also made sure that she had more than enough grain to take home at the end of the day.

In Psalm 23:1 we are reminded that: **The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.** God is the one who provides all we need. This doesn't mean we will always get everything we want, or we will never have troubles, but it is a promise that God provides for us.

Some questions to think about:

1. Why did Ruth have to go out into the fields to look for grain?
2. Why did God make rules for his people to make sure that grain was left in the fields when people were harvesting them? What does this tell us about God?
3. How do you feel knowing that our God, the one true God, is a God who provides for us?

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that you are a God who provides. Thank you that you provided food for Ruth and Naomi. Thank you for the promise that you provide everything for us. Please help me to trust in you to provide all that I need.

Amen.