

Ruth 2:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Boaz answered and said unto her, 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.

Analysis

Boaz explains his kindness: **'It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband'**. The Hebrew huggad huggad (told, it has been told) uses emphatic repetition—Ruth's actions are thoroughly known. Boaz specifically mentions her care for Naomi and radical choice: **'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'**. This language echoes God's call to Abraham (Genesis 12:1) to leave country and kindred for a land unknown. Ruth's sacrifice mirrors Abraham's faithful obedience, establishing her as spiritual heir to patriarchal faith. Boaz recognizes Ruth's conversion as genuine—not circumstantial following of Naomi but costly commitment requiring abandonment of family, homeland, and former gods for Yahweh and Israel.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures emphasized clan loyalty and filial piety. Leaving one's family, particularly parents, represented extraordinary sacrifice. Ruth abandoned not merely geographical location but entire social support system, cultural identity, and religious heritage. For ancient peoples, gods were territorial

—leaving one's land meant abandoning one's deities for foreign gods. Ruth's choice therefore involved religious conversion with serious eternal implications by ancient understanding. That her reputation for faithfulness had spread demonstrates how unusual her commitment was—covenant loyalty from a Moabite woman amazed Bethlehem's community. Boaz's awareness of Ruth's story shows how exceptional acts of faith become known, giving testimony to God's transforming power.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Ruth's sacrifice of leaving family and homeland illustrate the cost of genuine conversion to Christ?
2. What does Boaz's recognition of Ruth's faithfulness teach about how authentic Christian discipleship becomes visible to others?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַן	בַּעַז	וַיֹּאמֶר	לָהּ	הָגֵד	הָגֵד	לִי	כָּל
answered	And Boaz	and said	H0	been shewed	been shewed	H0	H3605
H6030	H1162	H559		H5046	H5046		
אֲשֶׁר	עָשִׂיתָ	אֶת	חַמּוֹתַי	אֶחָדִי	מֵוָת		
H834	me all that thou hast done	H854	unto thy mother in law	since	the death		
	H6213		H2545	H310	H4194		
אִישִׁי	וַתַּעֲזָבִי	אֶבִּירְךָ	וְאִמְךָ	וְרִצְ			
of thine husband	and how thou hast left	thy father	and thy mother	and the land			
H376	H5800	H1	H517	H776			
מִוֹלְדֹתַי	וְתֵלְכִי	אֶל	עַם	אֲשֶׁר	לֹא	יָדַעְתָּ	
of thy nativity	H1980	H413	unto a people	H834	H3808	which thou knewest	
H4138			H5971			H3045	
תָּמָּה	שְׁלֹשׁוֹם:						
not heretofore	H8032						
H8543							

Additional Cross-References

Luke 14:33 (Parallel theme): So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Psalms 45:10 (Parallel theme): Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house;

Luke 5:11 (Parallel theme): And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.