

# Ruth 2:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left.

## Analysis

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Boaz's generosity continues at mealtime: **'At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar'**. The invitation to join the meal elevates Ruth from mere gleaner to honored guest. Bread and vinegar (likely diluted wine vinegar used as refreshing drink) constituted standard harvest workers' fare. The command **'she sat beside the reapers'** shows Boaz seated her with his workers, not apart as a foreigner. The phrase **'he reached her parched corn'** indicates Boaz personally served Ruth—a landowner serving a foreign gleaner reverses normal social dynamics, foreshadowing Christ's teaching that the greatest should serve (Mark 10:43-45). The result: **'she did eat, and was sufficed, and left'**—she ate until fully satisfied with food remaining. This abundant provision demonstrates grace's overflow—not merely meeting minimum needs but providing generously beyond necessity.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Mediterranean meals were communal events with strict social protocols governing seating arrangements and food distribution. That Boaz invited Ruth to eat with his workers challenged social norms separating owners, workers, and gleaners. Parched grain (roasted kernels) was common nutritious food requiring minimal preparation, suitable for field meals. Boaz personally serving Ruth

demonstrated honor and care far beyond normal treatment of gleaners, who might be grudgingly permitted to glean but certainly not invited to owners' meals. Ruth's satisfaction with food left over shows provision exceeded her immediate needs—she could save surplus for Naomi, demonstrating how God's provision through His people often creates overflow blessing others.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does Boaz personally serving Ruth illustrate Christ's example of greatness through service?
2. What does the abundance ('sufficed and left') teach about God's provision exceeding mere subsistence?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֹּאמֶר	לָהּ	בְּעֵז	לְעֵת	הָאֵל כָּל	גִּשְׁי	הֵלֵם
said	H0	And Boaz	unto her At mealtime	H400	come	thou hither
H559		H1162	H6256		H5066	H1988
וַתֹּאכַל	מִן	הֶלֶם	וַתִּדֹּב	פִּתֵּי	בַּחֲמֶץ	וַתֵּשֶׁב
and eat	H4480	of the bread	and dip	thy morsel	in the vinegar	And she sat
H398		H3899	H2881	H6595	H2558	H3427
מִצֵּד	הַקֹּצֵר יָם	וַיָּבֹט	לָהּ	קָלָהּ	וַתֹּאכַל	
beside	the reapers	and he reached	H0	her parched	and eat	
H6654	H7114	H6642		H7039	H398	
וַתִּשְׂבֹּעַ	וַתֵּלֶךְ:					
and was sufficed	and left					
H7646	H3498					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ruth 2:18** (Parallel theme): And she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed.

**Matthew 14:20** (Parallel theme): And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

**Deuteronomy 8:10** (Parallel theme): When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.

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