

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

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

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

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

בָּעֵז לְהָיָמָר
And Boaz unto her At mealtime
H1162 H6256 H400

וַתָּשֶׁב בְּחַמֵּץ מִן יְתַאכֵּל
and eat of the bread and dip thy morsel in the vinegar And she sat
H4480 H3899 H2881 H6595 H2558 H3427

וַתָּאכֵל קֶלֶל לְהַקְצֵר יִם מִצְדָּקָה
beside the reapers and he reached her parched and eat
H6654 H7114 H6642 H0 H7039 H398

וַתִּתְמַתֵּר וַתִּשְׁבַּע
and was sufficed and left
H7646 H3498

Additional Cross-References

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.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org