

Ruth 2:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not:

Analysis

Boaz commands his workers: '**Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not**'. This exceeds gleaning law requirements—typically gleaners worked only field edges and gathered what harvesters dropped. Boaz permits Ruth to glean among the standing sheaves where grain is abundant, not merely leftovers. The command 'reproach her not' (lo takhlimuha) forbids shaming or embarrassing her, protecting her dignity. This demonstrates that biblical generosity provides not just material aid but preserves recipients' honor and dignity.

Historical Context

Gleaning laws provided for the poor but implementation varied by landowner generosity. Strict owners allowed only minimal gleaning; generous ones like Boaz permitted access to better areas. Ancient social dynamics often involved the poor experiencing shame and humiliation when receiving charity. Boaz's command to protect Ruth's dignity demonstrated understanding that poverty doesn't remove personhood or worth deserving respect.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does protecting dignity while providing aid inform Christian approaches to charity and social assistance?
2. What does Boaz's generosity beyond legal requirements teach about Christian ethics?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|------|----------------------|
| וְעַד יְמֵי קָרְבָּן | תַּלְקֵס | וְעַד יְמֵי | בְּעֵז | אֶת | יְמֵי |
| And when she was risen up | Let her glean | commanded | Boaz | H853 | his young men |
| H6965 | H3950 | H6680 | H1162 | | H5288 |
| לֹא מִלְאָמֵן רְמֵם בְּיַד גָּמֵד | בְּעֵמֶר יְמֵי | תַּלְקֵס | אֶל | | |
| saying | even among the sheaves | Let her glean | H3808 | | |
| H559 | H6016 | H3950 | | | |
| מִכְלִימָה: | | | | | |
| and reproach | | | | | |
| H3637 | | | | | |

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