

Ruth 2:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Ruth returns to Naomi: '**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**'. The large amount of grain visibly demonstrated God's provision. The phrase 'brought forth...that she had reserved' refers to the food from Boaz's meal (v. 14)—Ruth saved leftovers for Naomi, demonstrating selfless care. Rather than consuming all the special food Boaz provided, she saved portion for her mother-in-law, exemplifying covenant loyalty and practical love.

Historical Context

Ancient Mediterranean societies valued sharing food with family as expression of covenant loyalty. That Ruth saved choice food for Naomi rather than consuming it all herself demonstrated the chesed (loyal love) that characterized her. Bringing home both day's wages (grain) and special food from employer showed Ruth's success and Boaz's extraordinary kindness, giving Naomi first concrete hope since returning to Bethlehem.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Ruth's sharing with Naomi model Christian generosity within covenant community?
2. What does her thoughtfulness in saving food teach about practical expressions of love?

Interlinear Text

אֲתָה	בְּמֹתֹת	הָיָה	וַיַּרְא	בַּעַמְּדָה	וַיֵּתְבַּא	וַיִּתְשַׁאַל
and she took it up	and went	into the city	saw	and her mother in law		H853
H5375	H935	H5892	H7200	H2545		
אֲשֶׁר	לְקָטָה	וַיִּתְזַעַּךְ	וַיִּתְתַּחַת	לְבָבָה	אֲתָה	
H834	what she had gleaned	and she brought forth	and gave		H0	H853
	H3950	H3318	H5414			
אֲשֶׁר	הוֹתֶת בָּהּ	מִשְׁבַּעַת				
H834	to her that she had reserved	after she was sufficed				
	H3498	H7648				

Additional Cross-References

Ruth 2:14 (Parallel theme): 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.

1 Timothy 5:4 (Parallel theme): But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.