

Ruth 2:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers,
Whose damsel is this?

Analysis

Boaz's question—'**Whose damsel is this?**'—demonstrates responsible oversight and concern for the vulnerable. As landowner, Boaz monitors who gleans, protecting both property rights and vulnerable gleaners. His inquiry to '**the servant set over the reapers**' shows delegation to a foreman, demonstrating organizational competence while maintaining personal involvement in crucial decisions. This models biblical leadership balancing delegation with personal accountability for those under one's authority.

Historical Context

Ancient harvest involved complex social dynamics with potential for exploitation, particularly for foreign women without male protection. Landowners who feared theft sometimes forbade gleaning; others permitted it generously. Boaz's oversight shows sophisticated management. Questions about family connections reflected social structures where identity derived from clan relationships. Ruth's vulnerability as foreign widow made Boaz's inquiry significant—determining whether she had protection or required his intervention.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Boaz's oversight model Christian leadership balancing delegation with accountability?
2. What does this teach about using position to protect vulnerable people under your authority?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	בֹּאֵז	לְנִעֲרָו	הַנֹּצֵץ	עַל	הַקֹּזֵרִים	לְמַי
Then said	Boaz	unto his servant	that was set	H5921	over the reapers	H4310
H559	H1162	H5288	H5324		H7114	

הַנִּעֲרָה	הַזֹּאת:
Whose damsel	H2063
H5291	