

Ruth 2:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, It is the Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab:

Analysis

The servant identifies Ruth as **'the Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi out of Moab'**, emphasizing her foreign origin three times. The phrase **'came back'** technically applies only to Naomi, yet he uses it for Ruth, suggesting the community recognized her as having 'returned' to Israel. This verbal acknowledgment grants Ruth belonging despite foreign birth. The servant's detailed knowledge shows news of her loyalty had spread. Her reputation preceded her—the community knew of her commitment. This demonstrates that authentic faithfulness becomes visible and earns recognition.

Historical Context

Ancient Israelite communities were close-knit, with everyone's business quickly becoming known. Ruth's arrival and renunciation of Moab would have been widely discussed. Small villages like Bethlehem functioned as extended families where newcomers were scrutinized. Ancient Near Eastern cultures typically viewed foreigners with suspicion, yet Ruth's demonstrated loyalty apparently earned respect. The servant's explanation to Boaz provides context for decision-making, showing God's providence working through human reputation and observable character.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Ruth's reputation demonstrate that genuine conversion produces observable life change?
2. What does community acceptance teach about welcoming genuine converts from different backgrounds?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַן	הַנַּעֲמָן	הַנֶּצֶב	עַל	הַקֹּצֵרִים	וַיֹּאמֶר	נַעֲמָן
answered	And the servant	that was set	H5921	over the reapers	and said	damsel
H6030	H5288	H5324		H7114	H559	H5291

מִמּוֹאָבִיָּה	הִיא	הָשָׁבָה	עִם	נָעֲמִי	מִשָּׂדֵי
It is the Moabitish	H1931	that came back	H5973	with Naomi	out of the country
H4125		H7725		H5281	H7704

מִמּוֹאָב:

of Moab
H4124

Additional Cross-References

Ruth 1:22 (Parallel theme): So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Beth-lehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

