

Ruth 2:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves: so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now, that she tarried a little in the house.

Analysis

The servant commends Ruth's diligence: she requested permission humbly, then **'came, and hath continued even from morning until now'**. The Hebrew indicates she worked steadily through the hot day with minimal rest—brief shelter breaks from the sun. Ruth's industry demonstrates biblical work ethic: diligence, initiative, perseverance. Proverbs 31's excellent wife 'rises while it is yet night' and 'does not eat the bread of idleness'—Ruth embodies this ideal. Her work was grateful response to God's provision through gleaning laws, not begrudging obligation.

Historical Context

Ancient agricultural labor during harvest was physically demanding, particularly in Mediterranean heat. Barley harvest occurred in late spring with rising temperatures. Gleaning involved hours of stooping, carrying armloads, separating kernels—backbreaking work. That Ruth worked from morning until evening demonstrates remarkable stamina. The 'house' likely refers to temporary field shelter for sun protection. Ruth's diligence as newcomer was noteworthy—she could have claimed special accommodation as foreigner but worked harder than established gleaners, earning respect through observable character.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Ruth's work ethic challenge contemporary views of hard work as oppressive?
2. What does her humble request despite having legal rights teach about approaching opportunities with gratitude?

Interlinear Text

וַתֹּאמֶר	אֶלֶקָטָה	וְאֶסְפֹּתִי	בְּעֶמֶר יִם		
And she said	I pray you let me glean	and gather	among the sheaves		
H559	H3950	H4994 H622	H6016		
אַחֲרַי	הַקֹּזְרִים יִם	וַתָּבֹא	וַתַּעֲמֵד	מֵאָז	הַבֹּקֶר
after	the reapers	so she came	and hath continued	even	from the morning
H310	H7114	H935	H5975	H227	H1242
וְעַתָּה	יְהִי	שְׁכַתָּה	בֵּית	מְעֻט:	
until now that she tarried	in the house	a little			
H5704	H6258	H2088	H3427 H1004	H4592	

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 13:4 (Parallel theme): The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

Proverbs 15:33 (Parallel theme): The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

Proverbs 18:23 (Parallel theme): The poor useth intreaties; but the rich answereth roughly.

