

# Ruth 2:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.

## Analysis

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Boaz's provision intensifies: '**Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them**'. He grants Ruth access to the prime gleaning areas immediately behind the reapers, where the most grain is dropped. The promise '**have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee?**' provides explicit protection. The Hebrew *tzivviti* (commanded) indicates formal orders to his workers—not merely suggestions but authoritative commands carrying consequences for disobedience. Boaz uses his authority to create safety. The invitation '**when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn**' extends further grace—Ruth may drink water his servants prepared, treating her not as outsider but as part of his household. This extraordinary generosity demonstrates *chesed* (covenant loyalty) that Ruth showed to Naomi now reciprocated by Boaz.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern water access was precious commodity, particularly during hot harvest season. Wells or water sources might be distant from fields, and water transportation was labor-intensive. That Boaz offered Ruth free access to water his servants had drawn represented significant practical provision—she didn't need to leave fields mid-day to find water, maximizing her gleaning time while maintaining

hydration necessary for strenuous labor. The offer also honored her dignity—rather than making her beg for water or go thirsty, Boaz proactively provided. Ancient hospitality codes mandated water provision for guests, but Ruth was a mere gleaner without formal guest status. Boaz's treatment elevated her, demonstrating the gospel pattern of grace freely given beyond legal requirements.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Boaz's combination of protection and provision illustrate God's comprehensive care for His people?
2. What does this teach about Christian generosity going beyond minimal legal requirements to abundant grace?

## Interlinear Text

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עֵינֵי יוֹ	בְּשֹׂד הַ	אֲשֶׁר	יִקְצְרוּן	וְהִלַּכְתָּ	אַחֲרֶיהָ
Let thine eyes	be on the field	H834	that they do reap	and go	thou after
H5869	H7704		H7114	H1980	H310
הֵל וְאֵ	צִוִּי יִתִּי	אֶת	הַנְּעָרִים:	לְבִלֶּתַּי	
H3808	them have I not charged	H853	of that which the young men	H1115	
	H6680		H5288		
נִגְעוּ בְּךָ	וְצִמְתָּ	אֶתְּ	וְהִלַּכְתָּ	אֶל	
that they shall not touch	thee and when thou art athirst		and go	H413	
H5060	H6770		H1980		
הַכֵּל יִמּוּ	וְשָׁתַּת יִתְּ	מֵאֲשֶׁר רָ	יִשְׁאָבוּ וּן	הַנְּעָרִים:	
unto the vessels	and drink	H834	have drawn	of that which the young men	
H3627	H8354		H7579	H5288	

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 John 5:18** (Parallel theme): We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

**Genesis 20:6** (Parallel theme): And God said unto him in a dream, Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her.

**Psalms 105:15** (Parallel theme): Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

**Proverbs 6:29** (Parallel theme): So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.

**1 Corinthians 7:1** (Parallel theme): Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

**Matthew 10:42** (Parallel theme): And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.