

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

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

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

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

אַחֲרֵיכֶם וְקָלְכָת	עִנּוּ יְגַדֵּל	אֲשֶׁר	בְּשָׂדֶה	עִנּוּ יְגַדֵּל	לִקְצְרָוּן	כִּי	לְבָלָת	
and go	thou after	H1980	H310	Let thine eyes	be on the field	H834	that they do reap	H7114
H3808	H6680							

לְבָלָת הַנְּעָרִים:	בְּנֵי	אַתָּה	צְדָקָתִי	בְּנֵי	אַתָּה	כִּי	לְבָלָת
H1115	H5288	H853	H6680	them have I not charged	of that which the young men	H5288	Let thine eyes
							be on the field

אַל וְקָלְכָת	נְגַעַת	אַתָּה	תִּצְמַח	תִּצְמַח	אַל	וְקָלְכָת
H413	H1980	H6770	H5060	that they shall not touch	thee and when thou art athirst	that they shall not touch

הַנְּעָרִים:	בְּנֵי	וְשַׁאֲבָזִים	מְאַשֵּׁר	וְשַׁתְּ יְתִת	בְּכֶלֶם	וְשַׁאֲבָזִים	בְּכֶלֶם
H5288	H5288	H7579	H834	H834	H3627	unto the vessels	and drink

Additional Cross-References

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.
