

# The LORD Graciously Provides All Things

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Intro:

A large sum of money was given to Rowland Hill to dispense to a poor pastor. Thinking that the amount was too much to send all at once, Hill forwarded just a portion along with a note that said simply, "More to follow." In a few days the man received another envelope containing the same amount and with the same message, "More to follow." At regular intervals, there came a third, and a fourth. In fact, they continued, along with those cheering words, until the entire sum had been received.

C. H. Spurgeon used this story to illustrate that the good things we receive from God always come with the same prospect of more to follow. He said:

"When God forgives our sins, there's more forgiveness to follow. He justifies us in the righteousness of Christ, but there's more to follow. He adopts us into His family, but there's more to follow. He prepares us for heaven, but there's more to follow. He gives us grace, but there's more to follow. He helps us to old age, but there's still more to follow."

Spurgeon concluded, "Even when we arrive in the world to come, there will still be more to follow."

## 1. The LORD Graciously Provides Sustenance (v8a)

- a. Boaz asks kindly (וְיִשְׂרָאֵל interogative), expecting a positive answer
  - i. This kind of question is really used as a statement
  - ii. "Haven't you heard?" "Did you not understand?"
- b. Boaz provides consistency for her by telling her to glean only in his field
  - i. This was a command, "Do not go to other fields"
  - ii. He was telling her to stick close by
- c. Boaz provides greater sustenance for her and Naomi by telling her to glean with his servant girls
  - i. The women would typically work the fields with the men
    1. Harvest had to happen quickly
    2. It was a community effort
    3. The men would cut the grain and the women would tie it up into sheaves
  - ii. Ruth was being allowed to work among the cut grain with the women who were tying up the loose grain into standing sheaves for ease of transport
    1. Boaz moved her to the very front of the line of gleaners
    2. The Hebrew word, "stay here" is literally "join together"
      - a. She was told to join closely with his servant women
      - b. She was being included within the circle of his authority and blessing
        - i. No longer as a foreign beggar at the back of the line
        - ii. From the outer circle of Israel to the next circle in
- d. See the LORD's gracious provision for you and be humbly grateful
  - i. 1 Pet 1:4-6;
  - ii. **1 Peter 5:6-7** Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, <sup>7</sup> casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you
  - iii. Matt 6:25-34, pt. v33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and these things will be granted to you."

- iv. **Philippians 4:6-7** do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- v. “God will provide for Himself the Lamb...” (Gen 22:8a)
  - 1. John 1:29,36
  - 2. 1 Pet 1:18-19
  - 3. Rev 5:6-14
- vi. God has provided us with His Spirit to comfort, strengthen, illuminate, and to glorify Him
  - 1. Gal 3:5 – Spirit is provided by His grace
  - 2. Phil 1:19 – Holy Spirit provides deliverance for God’s glory
  - 3. Rom 5:5 – hope is due to the pouring out of His love through the gift of His Holy Spirit

## 2. The LORD Graciously Provides Security (vv8b-9a)

- a. Boaz encourages Ruth not to worry about her surroundings
  - i. Join up with my servant girls
  - ii. Keep your eyes upon the field
    - 1. Concern yourself with reaping, not with the dangers of being alone
      - a. Boaz is meeting her need of safety as a lone foreign woman reaping
      - b. Where are your eyes when you walk through a strange city at night?
    - 2. “Go after them”
      - a. Follow the women and glean
        - i. There is still the fact that Ruth is a gleaner, not a reaper, so she must follow behind the women
        - ii. But she is to stay close to them, so close that the young men had to be warned not to shoo her away
      - b. Wherever the reapers went, Ruth was to follow
        - i. Inclusion
        - ii. Provision
- b. Boaz commanded his young men to leave her alone
  - i. Typically gleaners might get a bit too close to the reapers in their zeal for limited resources
    - 1. Bordering on theft of grain
    - 2. Fight for the best and the most gleanings
  - ii. Ruth is being allowed to get closer than normal, to glean up with the women and is not to be harmed
    - 1. This single woman is being protected by Boaz
    - 2. This single foreign woman is being protected
    - 3. Amazing amount of grace in this culture
- c. The LORD gives protection and life
  - i. Matt 10:28ff
  - ii. Isa 31:5-6
  - iii. Ps 36:7-10; Ps 57; 63; 118:6
  - iv. Rom 8:35ff

## 3. The LORD Graciously Provides Serenity

- a. Boaz offered her access to water
  - i. This is a big deal!

- ii. She is given access to the water that the young servants of Boaz have already drawn up
  - 1. She doesn't have to spend the time drawing up her own water
  - 2. She is given the blessings of the servants of Boaz's household, even though she is a gleaner
  - 3. "Serenity" is the quality of being without worry, stress, or disturbance
- b. Boaz grants her protection at the well, too
  - i. His male servants are there, and she is not to be touched!
  - ii. This is a great honor to Ruth, a gracious undeserved honor for her
- c. Jesus is for us the water of life
  - i. John 4:10ff, cf. Rev 22:1ff
  - ii. John 7:37ff cf. Jer 17:13 where the LORD is the spring of living water
    - 1. Piper quote?
  - iii. Rev 7:17 – refreshment and fearless joy!!
- d. His Spirit brings us serenity
  - i. John 14:26-27, no worry, stress, or disturbance

#### 4. How Did the LORD Grace Us Ultimately?

- a. Jesus came to earth as the God-Man to save us by His grace through His obedient life, His atoning and substitutionary death, and His victorious resurrected life!
- b. In every other religion the founder is a human being sent by God to show us what to do to be saved.
  - i. But Jesus is God come himself. Now if God only needed to inform us what to do for salvation, he could have sent a prophet!
  - ii. His personal coming means he will not just tell us what we have to do to be saved, but will do for us all that we cannot do ourselves.
    - 1. He will live the obedient life we should have lived but did not.
    - 2. He will die to pay the penalty for the disobedient life we shouldn't have lived but did.
  - iii. He came himself to accomplish our salvation for us.
- c. To set us free from His own just wrath, God took upon Himself His own blows of justice

The incarnation means that for whatever reason God chose to let us fall into a condition of being limited, to suffer, to be subject to sorrows and death — he has nonetheless had the honesty and the courage to take his own medicine... He himself has gone through the whole of human experience — from the trivial irritations of family life and the cramping restrictions of hard work and lack of money to the worst horrors of pain and humiliation, defeat, despair, and death... He was born in poverty and... suffered infinite pain — all for us — and thought it well worth his while.

– D. Sayers

Conclusion: There is no grace like the grace of God in Jesus Christ! Poured out for you and for me when we didn't deserve it, Deity gave His life for us! Oh, the great love of God in gracing us with such extravagant gifts, by which we are saved, justified, adopted, empowered, and glorified by the God who graciously gave of Himself.

The heavens frighten us; they are too calm;  
 In all the universe we have no place.  
 Our wounds are hurting us; where is the balm?  
 Lord Jesus, by thy scars we know thy grace.  
 The other gods were strong; but thou wast weak;  
 They rode, but thou didst stumble to a throne;  
 But to our wounds only God's wounds can speak,

And not a god has wounds, but thou alone.

– Edward Shillito

Grace after grace after grace! Our God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ. There is nothing withheld from those who belong to Christ, for God has poured out His love within our hearts and His Spirit upon our souls. In Him you have the ultimate sustenance (for God has given you His Spirit within you by faith), the ultimate security (for your Father is God and Christ is your victorious brother), and the ultimate serenity (if God did not spare His own Son, what else will He withhold from you?). These graces are but a part of the glorious love of God for those who run to Christ for salvation, and there is still more grace to come for every situation in every place for every poverty of spirit. Jesus is bringing more grace. Where other gods came riding to power, He stumbled to a bloody cross then to a victorious throne to grace us with life. And there is still more to follow. Is He worthy of our love? Amen.