

1. Boaz Responds to Ruth's Question

- a. "fully reported"
 - i. A repeated verb: "to be reported it was reported"
 - ii. Hebraic expression of a superlative
 - iii. Boaz has heard about Ruth again and again
 1. This is a story that is going around
 2. "It is still being talked about!"
- b. All that she did for her mother in law
 - i. After the death of your husband
 1. Even in such loss, her love and care for Naomi was recognized
 2. Timeliness of such service and loyalty
 - ii. Left father and mother
 1. Left behind her closest relationships
 2. Left security, safety, provision
 3. Recalls Genesis 2:24 – leave his father and his mother and cleave to his wife
 - a. Boaz looking at marriage?
 - b. Covenantal aspect of Ruth's love for Naomi?
 4. Luke 14:26 – "hate father and mother...even his own life"
 - iii. Left land of her kin
 1. Recalls Abraham's journey from Uz
 - a. Genesis 12
 2. Leaving his people to follow the promise of the LORD
 3. Ruth is a woman of faith, like Abraham
 - a. 1 Pet 2:9-10
 - iv. Coming to a people that she did not know
 1. Indicative of Abe again
 2. Faced the fear of the unknown for the choice of Naomi's God
 3. See v12 "seek refuge under the wings of the God of Israel, YHWH"
 - a. Her refuge-seeking of the LORD gives her the strength and courage to give up the world
 - b. Boaz is answering her comment/question on being a "foreigner"
 - i. "You belong to Israel, Ruth"
 - ii. Your choices prove that you are a woman of faith

2. Boaz Blesses Ruth

- a. Boaz prays for Ruth here, imploring the LORD to fill Ruth up
- b. "May the LORD 'shalom' what you have done"
 - i. "repay" or "reward"
 - ii. Comes from the word: shalom – "complete" or "make peace"
 1. The idea of repayment comes from the concept of "making peace" by completing what is lacking between two parties

2. Boaz is asking the LORD to complete Ruth, what has been lost to be filled up; what she is lacking filled up by the LORD
- c. “May your full reward be given to you *with* the LORD, the God of Israel”
 - i. “full reward” is the word for wages
 1. Boaz is imploring the LORD to bless Ruth for her heart-felt faith and actions in the above (v11)
 - a. To Naomi
 - b. From family
 - c. From people
 - d. To God’s people
 - ii. This full reward is the completion of what Ruth seeks, i.e. refuge in the LORD
 1. “Under whose wings you have come to see refuge”
 2. This reward is different than the extra barley and the privileged status that Boaz has graced her with
 3. Her running and hiding in “the LORD, the God of Israel” results in the reward of having God as Her protector and provider

3. Ruth’s Rewarded Work Was Running and Hiding

- a. Two-fold request of “reward”
 - i. The word “by” is a double particular preposition
 1. Combination of “from” and “with”
 2. Boaz asks the LORD to reward Ruth out of His own storehouse of blessing, and that this blessing is Himself!
 - a. Reward *from* the LORD
 - i. He is always the source of reward and blessing
 1. Matt 6 – don’t work for the reward of men, but rather for ‘your Father who is in heaven will reward you’
 - ii. Note that Boaz, though he is blessing Ruth, does not consider his grace toward her a reward, but relies upon the LORD to reward her because only the LORD can reward
 - b. Reward *with* the LORD
 - i. The LORD is the reward!
 - ii. Boaz desires that the LORD’s presence be Ruth’s reward for her turning from idols and running to Him as the refuge
 1. Note that he emphasizes her running to the LORD’s protection and refuge as opposed to her works
 2. Running and hiding are not “works of the Law”, they are the deeds of faith which God promises and rewards with His presence
 - a. Hebrews 11:6
 - b. Cf. Heb 7:19 – Jesus is the reward and the fulfillment of the oath of God
 - ii. Proper reward, in Scripture, is always: glorifying God and enjoying Him
 1. Working hard at painting:
 - a. Temporal reward – money for selling it
 - b. Proper reward – joy of creating it

- c. 1 Cor 9:17-18 – reward if it is my desire, responsibility if it is not my desire
 - 2. Proper reward for almsgiving, prayer, and fasting is the *relationship with God* that these works evidence, not the works themselves nor anything beyond this deepened relationship.
 - 3. The *enriched relationship with God* is the proper reward of loving obedience to Him in response to His gracious love.
 - a. Matt 6:21,33 – where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (His kingdom and righteousness)
- b. Presence of the LORD
 - i. “under whose wings you have come for refuge!”
 - ii. The reward that Boaz asks the LORD for is the refuge and safety of His presence for Ruth!
 - 1. Ps 17:7-8; 36:7-10; 57; 61-64; 91
 - 2. 61:4
 - 3. Wings recall the Mercy Seat
 - a. Ark of the Covenant
 - i. Mercy Seat instructions – Exodus 25:17-22
 - 1. “Place of propitiation” (Lev 16)
 - 2. Sat on the Ark of the Covenant
 - 3. Two cherubim stretched their wings out on the top
 - 4. The LORD met with the Priest there at the place of propitiation
 - ii. Note the relationship between cherubim and the presence of the LORD
 - 1. Num 7:89
 - 2. 2 Kings 19:15
 - 3. Ezekiel’s vision in 10-11
- c. Fullness of family, people
 - i. You are not a foreigner, Ruth
 - ii. You are a true Israelite, for you have left your former gods and people and have taken refuge under the wings of the God of Israel, YHWH
 - iii. Boaz graciously answers her seemingly tagged on statement with the blessing and reminded truth of her true citizenship: Her King and Protector is YHWH

4. Our Reward is the Refuge of Christ

- a. Christ is the great Mercy Seat, the propitiation for the sins of the people (PARDON)
- b. Christ is also the great Righteous One, the One who receives all the rewards of God for His perfect obedience to the Law, that which is perfectly in line with God’s holy and perfect character (PERFECTION)
 - i. The imputed righteousness of Christ
 - 1. There is both a “negative” and a “positive” aspect of our salvation
 - a. Negative – sins need to be atoned for
 - i. Christ’s death bore the curses of the Law upon our sins/failures
 - ii. His death crowns his atoning sufferings and propitiates God’s holy wrath against us
 - 1. Rom 3:24-25; 5:6-9
 - 2. 1 John 4:10
 - b. Positive – righteousness needs to be attained
 - i. Perfect fulfillment of the over 600 commands of the Law of God
 - 1. Gal 2:21; 3:10,13

2. 2 Cor 5:21

3. Rom 3:21-22; 4:6,11; 5:18-19

ii. What God requires, Christ provides

1. We failed to follow God's righteous Law perfectly, so we should die

2. Jesus did not fail (Heb 4:15), so he should not have died

3. The Great Exchange

a. Our sin atoned for by Jesus' blood

i. Pheasant and fire illustration

b. Jesus' righteousness imputed to us by God's grace

i. Rom 4; 8:3

ii. 1 Cor 1:30-31

iii. Piper's illustration about the cleaned room

4. 2 Cor 5:21

For our sake God made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

"There is probably no passage in the Scriptures in which the doctrine of justification is more concisely or clearly stated than [this]. Our sins were imputed to Christ, and his righteousness is imputed to us. He bore our sins; we are clothed in his righteousness... Christ bearing our sins did not make him morally a sinner... nor does Christ's righteousness become subjectively ours, it is not the moral quality of our souls... Our sins were the judicial ground of the sufferings of Christ, so that they were a satisfaction of justice; and his righteousness is the judicial ground of our acceptance with God."
(Charles Hodge)

c. Our reward, imputed by God through Christ, is the promise of an inheritance as sons of God

i. Luke 6:35 – reward of loving enemies is to be called a son of the Most High, like Him, the greatest honor that a son can receive is to be called like the Father whom he loves

ii. Heb 10:35-36 – perseverance produces the reward of an abiding and better possession, i.e. eternal home and security and joyful comfort of heaven, where God dwells

iii. Col 3:23-24 – our reward for doing good "as to the Lord" is the inheritance (promised, not earned, yet a reward) which is the Lord

iv. 2 John 1:8-9 – the full reward of perseverance is to "have God"

v. Rev 21:3-4,7 – the announcement of the final restoration of God is that God would dwell among men, call them His people and He their God, and comfort every woe.

1. The "one who conquers will have this inheritance: and I will be his God and he will be My son."

vi. Isa 62:11-12 – God brings His reward with Him and it is further described as: "they shall be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD, the Sought Out, the City Not Forsaken."

Conclusion:

Our reward for running to hide in the refuge of the shadow of His wings, is the protection and provision of God's presence. There is nothing sweeter to the sinner's palate than the eternal honey of the Lord's redeeming face. Run to Him! Hide in the blood and righteousness of Christ! He is your redemption, your wisdom, your righteousness before God! As we run to Him our reward is filled up...with Him! In His presence there is fullness of joy. Peace, both inner and extending outward to our broken relationships, flows forth from His peace-making Spirit as He applies the blood and fills us up with the life of Christ. It is not we who live, but Christ who lives in us, and we now live by faith in the Son of God who loves us and has given His life for us.

Brothers and sisters, do not run to your intellect, your money, your power in reputation as the means for great rewards. These idols promise great rewards, but they never deliver. Instead, hide. Hide in the gracious provision of Christ on your behalf. Because God requires righteousness, perfect righteousness, in order to be in His presence, and only in Christ are we given such righteousness in order to be holy and blameless before Him. Tuck yourselves under the wings of the great and glorious King over all creation, trusting in His blood to atone for your sins and failures and in His righteousness imputed to you by faith that makes you holy as sons and daughters of God. Oh, the glory of Christ and His great exchange! Amazing love! Amazing grace!

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' name