



Daily Devotionals

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RUTH 2:10-13 UNMERITED MERCY

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¹⁰ *At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She exclaimed, "Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?"*

¹¹ *Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. ¹² May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge. "*

¹³ *"May I continue to find favor in your eyes, my lord," she said. "You have given me comfort and have spoken kindly to your servant—though I do not have the standing of one of your servant girls."*

Ruth has taken the walk of Abraham. She has left her home and her family and gone to another land in total dependence upon God, who was not the god of her land or family. Another interesting parallel is that both persons of faith left in the company of a barren woman past the age of child-bearing. A significant difference between Ruth and Abraham is that Abraham followed a promise that was given directly to him, while Ruth followed the promise expressed by her mother-in-law. Perhaps as a faithful son of Abraham, Boaz recognized the old story being retold in Ruth's life, for he couches the explanation for his interest in the context of that story.

We, too, follow the mediated promise of God and come to the kingdom as foreigners, not worthy of the attention of the King. And we arrive at the gates alone, barren of any power to become a citizen and totally dependent upon the grace and mercy of God. As an expression of our gratitude, our humble desire should be to "*continue to find favor in*" the eyes of our Lord and seek to serve him alone. The story of Ruth and that of Abraham is our story. Jesus is our Promise and he called us to follow him – to leave the "land" in which we live and the "family" of fallen human beings into which we were born and go by faith to the place that he has prepared for us.

Where you lead, O God, may I always follow as did your servants Abraham and Ruth. I pray that my life will consistently betray my love and dependence upon your grace and mercy. In the abundance of that mercy may it overflow out of my life and into the lives of my neighbors. Amen.

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