



Daily Devotionals

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RUTH 2:1-3 THE INVISIBLE HAND OF GOD

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¹Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, from the clan of Elimelech, a man of standing, whose name was Boaz.

Ru 2:2 And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor."

Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter."³ So she went out and began to glean in the fields behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she found herself working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelech.

Naomi's God is at work. He has called her home with the news that he was again providing food for his people (1:6). Now that she has returned the Bethlehem, the House of Bread, his invisible hand is about to deliver her from her emptiness and make her life pleasant once more. And his deliverance comes through the most humble of circumstances. Ruth, the foreigner, proposes to seek provision for the women, not by seeking a husband for herself or selling herself to men, but by subjecting herself to the grueling, filthy and demeaning task of following the harvest workers and picking up whatever stalks of grain they missed or were not worth the effort to retrieve. This also was an endeavor that was not without danger to Ruth, for a single, foreign girl in the field was certainly vulnerable to harvest herself. After properly seeking Naomi's permission, Ruth "just happens" to find herself in the field of Boaz, the wealthy relative of Naomi's husband.

Benjamin Franklin is quoted as saying "God helps those who help themselves." Although this saying has been misused to justify following our own desires and looking to God to bless it, God does appear to honor us by allowing us to partner with him in having our lives aligned with his will. Perhaps the analogy of a ship presents a more accurate view. One can turn the tiller of her ship over to the pilot in order to move it out of the harbor, but if she does not unmoor the ship and get it under steam, the pilot cannot steer it no matter how much he manipulates the tiller. Only a ship already under way can be directed out of the harbor. But, like a ship, when we move out in our lives we need to do so with the intention of being steered by the Pilot. It is not that we are

“helping ourselves,” but rather that we are actively placing ourselves under the hand of God. If the truth be told, God is already “invisibly” at work, he just invites us to “get on board.”

Lord, make the motivation for my life that your will be done. Through Scripture I can know your general will and align my behavior accordingly. Help me to do those things that will open me further to doing of your specific will and protect me from the temptation to live my life my own way and only seek your blessing. May I always “see” your invisible hand at work in my life. Amen.

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