

# Sermon Reflections

---

*Coincidence or Providence? (Hope in a Sovereign, Good God) Ruth 2:1-23*

**Summary:** God is sovereign. Nothing is left to chance.

Hope in God, who delivers on all His promises, even by controlling 'everyday' events.

## 1. Understand God's Control of Chance (vv. 1-3)

- In Ruth 2, we find several 'coincidences' which were God's orchestrated plans. God is in control of everything. How have you seen God's sovereign hand involved in your life, both past and present?
- In pressing times, it can be difficult to understand how God is working. Do we need to know what God is doing? What are the most important truths to cling to during times of change?
- Read Psalms 10-13 and consider the questions asked there. Does the Psalmist offer or receive an answer to his questions? What, ultimately, does he turn to for hope?

## 2. Imitate God's Notice of the Needy (vv. 4-7)

- Boaz showed his faith by caring for a foreigner (Ruth). How is this care for Ruth a good example for us, the church, today? How might this situation apply to us?
- Who do you know that is needy? How can you imitate the example of Boaz and care for this person? Note that Boaz took initiative and went far above the requirements of the law in his care for Ruth.

## 3. Embody God's Care for His People (vv. 8-16)

- How does Boaz's compassion and care toward Ruth adorn the Gospel? How is his care for Ruth a reflection of the care and compassion God showed us in Christ?
- Do you look to display care and love to others, such as other church members, elders, visitors, or strangers? Do you tend to shy away from people who are unknown/different from you?
- Read Romans 12:9-21. How can you strive to be more inviting toward others in the church? The goal is not for people to feel *permitted* to attend but *welcomed* to worship our God.

## 4. Trust God's Provision in Providence (vv. 17-23)

- Just as Boaz was Ruth and Naomi's kinsmen redeemer, Jesus is our kinsmen Redeemer. He showed favor toward us by His death on the cross. His death provided our salvation from God's wrath and a relationship with Him. Never forget the needy, helpless place from which Christ saved us!
- When Boaz abundantly cared for Ruth's needs, Naomi praised the Lord. How should we respond when our needs are met? Why is thankfulness such an important characteristic for the godly? Do you often thank God for all He has done for you?