

Providence and Hope

Scripture

“There was a relative of Naomi’s husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name [was] Boaz. So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, “Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after [him] in whose sight I may find favor.” And she said to her, “Go, my daughter.” Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field [belonging] to Boaz, who [was] of the family of Elimelech.” (Ruth 2:1-3 NKJV)

Commentary

Providence and hope often work hand-in-hand. Providence led Ruth to the field of Boaz, and hope powered her steps. Notice Ruth’s request, “Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor.” She hoped to find favor. Of course she does find favor as providence leads her into the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who soon takes notice of her.

It is a great mistake to look at our circumstances and reason that there is no hope. This young woman was about as poor a case as one could find, a widow, broke, and in a foreign country. However, with Christ there is always hope.

Difficult circumstances give us the greatest opportunity to hope in Christ. God is not concerned with us being rich or powerful. However, He is concerned with our wellbeing. He does not leave us to starve for food or fellowship. Sometimes He might pull back on the fellowship to motivate us to seek Him, but He is always waiting with open arms for His penitent children.

My dear friend if providence has led you into a dark place this day, trust in Christ. If you are His child there is a purpose for it. Ruth was led by providence to Bethlehem, to the field of Boaz that she might be brought into the lineage of Christ.

Do not withdraw from the place of possible blessing. Ruth hoped that she might find favor, and you too might find favor if you will place yourself in a position to be favored. However, if you give up and run away from God, you have placed your confidence in the flesh. As it is written, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Cursed [is] the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the LORD.’” (Jeremiah 17:5 NKJV)

Prayer

Dear God, lead us not into temptation. Direct our steps as we navigate the course of our lives, amen.