

The Lord Repays the Faithful

Scripture

"Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The LORD [be] with you!" And they answered him, "The LORD bless you!" Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman [is] this?" So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, "It [is] the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. "And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house." Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women. "[Let] your eyes [be] on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn." So she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I [am] a foreigner?" And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and [how] you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. "The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge." Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants." Now Boaz said to her at mealtime, "Come here, and eat of the bread, and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched [grain] to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back. And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. 'Also let [grain] from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave [it] that she may glean, and do not rebuke her'" (Ruth 2:4-16 NKJV).

Commentary

Faithfulness and kindness do not go unnoticed by the Lord of Host. Boaz was moved to look favorably upon Ruth for her faithfulness and kindness towards Naomi. Everything she had done and sacrificed had been reported to him by others. We don't always realize how our reputation precedes us.

We should never do good to gain, but to understand God's economy is a good thing. When we glorify God by doing the things He desires we do, He often magnifies His name even more by blessing us. Even this brings glory to God.

God's glory is the ultimate goal of God and should be ours also. ". . . every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:11 NKJV). When we are seeking to glorify God we can be sure we are in His will. That is the place every Christian yearns to be.

What a wonderful experience Ruth and Naomi had as they watched with amazement as the Lord opened up the way before them. Have you ever experienced this in your life? It happens when you are praying, reading, and listening to the Lord in faith.

We can pray and never hear an answer if we don't pray in faith; we can read and never learn if we don't read in faith, but if we pray and read with the eye of faith, we are sure to see the Lord's hand of providence in our lives.

Ruth experienced the blessings of God for her faithfulness and kindness. Let us be faithful today to do the things that glorify God.

Prayer

Father, glorify yourself in our lives. Lord we desire to yield ourselves to you for the good of others. Give us the faith to see beyond our circumstances to the glory that will be revealed. Keep us from sin, amen.