

Transforming Daily

“ . . why have I found favor in your eyes . . .”
Ruth 2:10

This part of the story is where Ruth is formally introduced to Boaz. It is also the part of the story that introduces the reader to what a kinsman redeemer is, and in this case, he is a typification of Christ. The applications are endless. But for the sake of time and space, Boaz here typifies Christ's provision and protection. Boaz is directly related to Naomi, and Ruth is directly related to Naomi, therefore (if my Algebra doesn't fail me) by transitive property, Ruth is directly related to Boaz. But is it enough for Ruth, a Moabitess, to find favor in the eyes of Boaz, an Israelite? The answer is very simple. Boaz extends unmerited favor and grace by exercising personal cost and care (read ahead for more information) to Ruth who has already professed and exercised trust in Naomi's God, the God of Israel (1:16-18).

Unmerited favor is a hard concept to grasp or even explain. In theological context, it basically means that God shows the sinner who is at enmity with Him grace, mercy, lovingkindness, provision, and protection through His Son, Jesus Christ (specifically through His work on the cross of Calvary for salvation and eternal life) when the unrepentant sinner actually deserves, according to the Bible, death, hell and the grave. Our sinful condition, before Christ, sets us apart from God as Ruth was set apart from Israel being a Moabite. Therefore, Boaz had no real legal obligation to her (as is the case with God toward sinners) apart from Naomi's claims to near kinsmanship (so to for the sinner apart from Christ's substitutionary atonement); in which, Ruth recognized and immediately and ultimately trusted (which is also required of the sinner toward Christ for salvation and eternal life).

Do you rightly understand God's favor and grace? Do you think that you deserve it? Does your life reflect a sense of humility and gratitude for God's mercy toward us in while we were yet sinners, He sent Jesus Christ to save us? I have been saved since 1976. I still say to God, in my own words and prayers, "Why have I found favor in Your eyes?"