

Transforming Daily
“ . . where have you gleaned today . . . ”
Ruth 2:19

When Ruth got back to Naomi and brought her what she had gleaned, Naomi wanted to know where she had gleaned. The text doesn't say it, but I believe the reason Naomi was interested in where Ruth had worked that day was due to the amount of grain she had brought back. Gleaning is one thing, but based on the instructions that Boaz gave to his reapers and the haul that Ruth apparently brought home, it would have been as if she was one of the reapers, herself, rather than a gleaner. The text indicates that Ruth worked long and hard for the harvest.

Farming is hard work. It doesn't matter whether farming is done on massive acreage or a one man backyard garden, farming is hard. It takes planning, preparation, patience, and perseverance to get the job done. There is a level of experience and expertise required to be a farmer. It's not about luck or good fortune, however, divine intervention is definitely a contributing factor in the process. God is in control. He allows, appoints, arranges, or assigns the varying and various elements for the success or failure of each crop.

I have lived most of my life in farming communities across the United States. I have watched (and participated in) the farming of many different crops, but each experience presented the same basic procedure. There is the preparation of the land, then the seed (or eye) is introduced to the earth, then a form of irrigation and fertilization, then waiting and maintaining until the crop is ready for harvest, then the crop is harvested, stored, (shipped) and processed. Obviously each crop has a specific routine, but this is the gist of it. The main thing the farmer provides is long hard work.

Soul winning is pretty much the same. It is done according to God's will. The believer is to share the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ (the seed), in the power of the Holy Spirit (irrigation and fertilization), and the leave the results up to God (harvesting). He adds the increase. The main thing the believer provides is long hard work. Spiritually and biblically speaking, the fields are white unto harvest. The question is, "Where have you gleaned today?"