

Where's Your Chair?

Ruth 2:17-23



People will say, 'Truly, there is a harvest for the righteous;
truly, there is a God who judges in the earth.'
Psalm 58:11

Praising:

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done:
in our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing;
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

Reading:

Ruth 2:17-23
Ruth reports back to Naomi

At the end of the day's labour, Ruth presents Naomi with the final share of the barley. Naomi is instantly curious: where has Ruth been working? Moreover, in order for Ruth to have gathered so much, Naomi theorises that some man must have taken notice of her. On the news that the man is Boaz, Naomi first of all recognises his kindness as an act

of divine providence. The Lord has shown mercy to Ruth and Naomi, through Boaz. Naomi proceeds to identify Boaz as a close member of her late husband's family. When Ruth reveals that Boaz has told her to stay close to his servants for protection as long as she is gleaning, Naomi encourages Ruth to take up his offer. Plainly the mother-in-law has slightly more in mind than her daughter-in-law's personal safety!

Listening:

Praying:

Lord help us to see your hand in the loving kindness of strangers

- to receive gratefully from others as if from Christ himself
- to recognise the blessing and provision of your Spirit in every situation
- to look constantly and willingly for ways we can be instruments of your compassion

Father: go before me – opening doors, creating opportunities, introducing me to new people and giving me things to do and words to speak for Christ. As you have done all the way along.
Amen

Doing: