

Where's Your Chair?

Ruth 2 1-7



May there be abundance of grain on the earth, standing thick upon the hilltops;
may its fruit flourish like Lebanon and its grain grow like the grass of the field.
Psalm 72:16

Praising:

The task thy wisdom hath
assigned
O let me cheerfully fulfil;
in all my works thy presence find,
and prove thy good and perfect
will.

Reading:

Ruth 2:1-7
Naomi asks to go to work

Living now in Bethlehem, her mother-in-law's homeland, Ruth proposes to work in the fields, hoping that someone might take pity upon her plight. Israelite law (in Leviticus and Deuteronomy) made provision for the poor to glean the fields after the reapers had finished their work. The idea was to ensure that part of the harvest would be left aside especially for them. Having received permission firstly from

Naomi and secondly from the farm supervisor, Ruth falls in behind the reapers and sets to work. That particular section of the land, it turns out, belongs to Boaz, a man closely connected to the family of Naomi's late husband. When Boaz arrives on site, he notices Ruth immediately. His supervisor is quick to explain who Ruth is, where she has come from, and how tirelessly she has been working all day.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord we pray for those who struggle to find work

- the long-term unemployed who long for an opening or outlet for their gifts and talents
- the ones who slip in and out of work who long for something secure and permanent
- those unable to work through ill-health who long to contribute meaningfully to society

Father: help me to value the work you have given me, the service I can be to those around me, and the satisfaction of doing that job well. Replace, I pray, my grumbling with gratitude. Amen

Doing:

Tuesday, 08 March 2016