

Pastors Thoughts of the Week

Unmerited Favor

Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger? Ruth 2:10

Ruth had cast her lot in with Naomi and had decided to walk by faith and not by sight. It was an unreasonable calculation for this young woman. Bereft of husband and future prospects, what hope had she for any benefactions amidst a people known for their xenophobic separation from the pagan Moabites, from whence she had hailed. At first glance it would appear that the young maid had cast her fate to the winds, but to the trained eye of faith, time would prove her tenacious cleaving to the God of her mother-in-law would reap a bountiful reward. First must come the willingness to lose all to follow Christ and only then the corresponding blessing is vouchsafed. Ruth, willing to sacrifice all prospects of future felicities resigns herself to arduous labor in the harvest fields in support of herself and her mother-in-law. And so "Her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz" where a Cinderellaesque drama unfolds.

The unpretentious scene before us strikes a resonating chord in the heart of every child of God. For who is this stranger that finds such unmerited favor in the sight of the Lord of the Harvest? Who amongst the redeemed of God has not with profound wonderment fallen before our Master. Have we not, like Ruth, pondered how such strangers to the covenant of God should find mercy in the eyes of One who has every right to shun and ignore us.

We are but impotent Mephibosheths who bring no credentials to secure an inheritance from the table of the king. But as surely as his great grandfather showed mercy to the undeserving, so did David to the lame outcast. And so many centuries thereafter, in this same royal lineage, there came a greater than Boaz and David. Jesus broke down the middle wall of partition and welcomed the outcast to sit at His table and partake of His inheritance. "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ." Ephesians 2:12

With a similar astonishment we fall on our face with Ruth and ask "Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?" Let us never lose the wonder of that mystery.

Have a blessed week,

Pastor

Faith cometh by hearing: and hearing by the word of God Romans 10:17