

"And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, 'Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not: And let fall also some of the Handfuls Of Purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her not.'" Ruth 2:15-16 KJV



Ruth was living day to day, hand to mouth. Naomi stayed home and did all the cooking, cleaning, and washing while Ruth went to find food. There were no cars or even horse carts for the poor. Ruth walked to Boaz's field, worked all day, and walked home with the day's gleanings. She was not alone in the field of gleaners. They all had the same hardships. There were other maidens in Boaz's field, but Ruth was the only one that received "handfuls of purpose." At first, she may have thought herself fortunate to be behind a clumsy reaper, but I'm sure she knew after a while that it wasn't clumsiness. She probably followed other reapers on different days to discover that it mattered little which she followed; they, too, were "clumsy." Her only conclusion had to be, Boaz. Because she obeyed Boaz and stayed fast by his reapers, he made sure she had enough. She still had to gather it and beat it out, but it was sufficient. What a lesson in God's provision to the dependent faithful! "Give us this day our daily bread." Ruth could have switched fields, but she obeyed. How often are we tempted by greed or discontent to wander from the precepts of Truth? How often has God made your path a bit easier? A close parking place suddenly becomes available; A needed item just happens to be discounted; A task fraught with possible errors falls into place like a well-oiled machine; An anticipated conflict dissolves into nothing even as you fret about it; and a thousand other "handfuls of purpose" from your heavenly Father are strewn on your path. Have you noticed? Do you give thanks to the LORD for His thoughtfulness? "In every thing give thanks: for this is the Will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." While we may not immediately see the good of a given situation, God Promises, "ALL THINGS work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the Called according to HIS Purpose." Our Omniscient Father knows the end from the beginning and we may trust His Judgment in every aspect of every moment "for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him." He will always leave you "Handfuls of Purpose," if you trust and obey His Commands.

God lets fall His glittering gems,
To all who faithful follow Him,
They meet the needs of ev'ry day,
Of all who by His reapers stay. –CGP

There is no such thing as luck for the believer, because "the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord." The unbeliever's steps are ordered by his own lust. "When lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. For the wages of sin is death." What dictates your deeds? Lust or Truth? What you obey determines your destiny. "If we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship one with another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ His Son Cleanseth us from all sin." Paul wrote just before his execution: "Henceforth there is laid up for me a Crown of Righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, Shall Give me at that Day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His Appearing." Jesus never comes "next" for those who truly love Him!

"But seek ye FIRST the Kingdom of God, and His Righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33 KJV