

Sabbath School Lessons.

July 3rd, 1864.

RUTH AND BOAZ.

Read Ruth ii. 1-17.

I. Ruth, ver. 1-3.

Naomi seems to have got no assistance from those who recognised her on her return, and to have sought none from her rich kinsman. Indeed, she does not seem to have remembered that she had rich relations.

Immediately after their return, ch. i. 22. Ruth seeks permission to go and glean, for it was harvest time. Notice her industry—she would work, not beg; her gentle obedience—she seeks permission, and that from a mother-in-law; her humility—she was willing to do anything; her cheerful faith—she doubts not God will help her to find a field to glean in. God did guide her to Boaz's field.

II. Boaz, ver. 4-7.

Boaz himself, though rich, looked strictly after his own property. He was on most friendly, Christian-like terms with his servants. *The Lord be with you.* Such salutations were common in Judea, see Ps. cxxx. 8. *The servant set over the reapers.* The servant seems to have been like his master. Boaz had a well-arranged establishment. He is told who Ruth was, that she had asked leave, and that she had been very diligent. *Among the sheaves.* Gleaning there was forbidden generally, lest the corn should be plucked from the sheaves.

III. Boaz and Ruth, ver. 8-17.*

Boaz showed his kindness, by inviting Ruth to glean with his reapers all the harvest, by charging his maidens and his young men to befriend her, by supplying her with meat and drink, by applauding her conduct towards her mother-in-law, and her adherence to Israel's God. *The Lord under whose wings thou art come to trust.* A most beautiful emblem—as the tender, feeble nestling hides under its parent's wing, so had Ruth left the idols of her native land, and puts her trust in Israel's God. She had become a proselyte, ver. 12. Perhaps this was Boaz's motive for his kindness. These little acts of kindness prove the goodness of Boaz's heart more than a great gift would have done. They are

* The scene in the harvest-field is very interesting. The bright harvest day—the half-cut field of barley—the joyous band of young men and maidens reaping and binding the yellow grain. Boaz enters, riding on a mule, the salutations are exchanged—“The Lord be with you”—“The Lord bless thee.” The creature stands by his side among the sheaves; and looking towards Ruth, who bends diligently over her work, they speak softly, concerning her.—Boaz advances. She fears afraid, till his kind welcome dispels her fears—she makes her obeisance and reply.

more difficult to perform. *Ephah of barley,* about four pecks.

APPLICATION.

1. *Learn what is due to a mother,* from Ruth's conduct to Naomi, her aged mother-in-law. She loved her—the motive of all her conduct; *obeyed her,* though able to judge for herself, was kind and respectful in all her words and actions; *wrought for her* willingly and cheerfully, did not even ask her to go out with her. “How does he treat his mother?” is an excellent test of character, Prov. xxiii. 22; xxx. 11-17; Solomon, 1 Kings ii. 19. “Show piety at home.” Jesus, Luke ii. 51.

2. *Learn to be industrious.* None have a right to eat who do not labour, 2 Thes. iii. 10. God will call idlers to account—rich or poor; “the talent” in the napkin. To beg when you can work is just one way of stealing. Learn while young. All honest labour is honourable. “The carpenter”—“the fisherman”—“the tentmaker.”

3. *Learn contentment.* Ruth was humble; yet, though they seem to have been very poor, almost starving, no complaint is heard. She humbly trusted that God would help them, Hab. iii. 17, 18. Many lose all the enjoyment of the comforts they possess by fretting because they have not more.

4. *How good it is for master and servants to serve Christ.* If the salutations in the harvest-fields were not mere words, how good a master Boaz would be! how well served! Serving Christ keeps all in their right places, Eph. vi. 5-9. The centurion, Matt. viii. 5. Cornelius, Acts x. 2. Be you such a servant or such a master.

5. *Learn how to give.* Boaz knew this. He gave kindly, did not treat Ruth like a beggar; gave attention and sympathy, gave without hurting her feelings. How beautiful the words, ver. 16, “let fall some,” &c. Seek the spirit of Christ to teach this.

SUBORDINATE LESSONS.

1. He who notices and admires what is good, is likely to be good, ver. 11.

2. Do your duty, and leave God to give you favour with men if he pleases.

3. How beautiful is modesty! It is “the shadow that precedes true worth.”—Edin. S. S. Lessons.

July 10th, 1864.

THE YOUNG RULER.

Read Luke xviii. 15-30.

I. The Children Blessed, ver. 15-17. *Infants.* They were very young. They