

water?" Ruth thinks of Naomi and returns to bring her the remains of the repast, and what she had gleaned, desiring that her mother should be satisfied as she had been. Thus he who is faithful gives an account of his labour to the people of God and seeks their prosperity. How little do Christians realize these things! What importance has the prosperity of the church of Christ, for those who prefer their own church, and their own people and their gods, to Him? The Lord's poor afflicted people do not seem worthy of care to these indifferent hearts. They will insist, perhaps, on the work of the gospel to the world; but a heart in communion with Christ does not sacrifice one to the other. The apostle Paul was as much a servant of the assembly as he was of the gospel. He loved that church which Christ, in His love, had purchased by His own blood. Far would it have been from him to have loved a sect or a church of his own invention; he only knew the assembly of Christ, and was jealous for His sake with a godly jealousy to present it to Him as a chaste virgin.

The heart of Naomi is full of gratitude towards the man who has recognized Ruth when he might have rejected her as a stranger. What sweet intercourse between these two women of God! Ruth pronounces the beautiful name of Boaz, Naomi responds with thanksgiving "to him who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead."