



## 3<sup>rd</sup> PART: April - June, 2025 “Blessings”

### April, 2025

- **Song:** Count your blessings by The London Fox Singers  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hb4JBNDWhOA>
- **Biblical Text:** Ruth 2: 1-13
- **Reflection:**

### ***Blessings that transform daily life into a realm of salvation and revelation.***

The Book of Ruth invites us to recognize the transformative power of the extraordinary within the ordinary, everyday aspects of life. Though the story of Ruth might seem quite ordinary, it touches on fundamental human experiences: migration, hunger, famine, death, loneliness, love, fidelity, work, effort, relationships, seduction, risks, pleasure, suffering, laws, birth, and the quest for social approval. How can we avoid these realities? How can we imagine a God who is detached from them, if He claims to love us?

In Ruth, God reveals Himself subtly through the daily rhythms of life, without dramatic intervention. His presence is gentle and understated, woven into the countryside, the home, the town square, and the changing seasons.

The narrative focuses not on overt divine interventions, but on the actions of people – men and women who partner with God in His work.

*Naomi and Ruth exemplify how to find one's place within the broader story of salvation.*





Their journey illustrates how and where God's salvation unfolds, highlighting the places where His presence is most palpable and guiding us on how to position ourselves to become places of grace.

- **Questions:**

- *What resonates within me from this text?*
- *Ruth and Naomi walk together and are blest by the people whom they meet in the small details of each day...*
  - *How do I perceive the presence of others as a blessing?*
  - *How am I an instrument of God's blessing to others?*
  - *We invite you to write a message of blessing to a sister in another province/country.*





## May, 2025

- **Song:** The Servant Song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIhxxhPOwfc>
- **Biblical Text:** Ruth 2, 14-23
- **Reflection:**

### ***Salvation is found in choosing to live through the embrace of nurturing love.***

Ruth's choice to stay with Naomi was not a fleeting decision or one driven by dependency; it was a deliberate act of profound love. The real challenge lies not in making the initial choice but in maintaining that love when difficulties arise. Although they have arrived in Bethlehem, they face challenges to survive. During the harvest season, God's law permits them to glean from the fields (Lev. 19:9-10).

The law states: "*When you harvest your field and forget a sheaf, do not go back to retrieve it. Leave it for the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow*" (Deut. 24:19). This provision, intended for the poor and not for the landowner, was known to Naomi, who must have shared it with Ruth. Ruth, possessing youth and strength, takes the initiative to glean, despite initially seeing it as an act of charity rather than a right.

One has knowledge, the other has youth and strength (2,2). It is a right that corresponds to her threefold: she is poor, widowed and a foreigner, but she is not yet aware of her right, she is only looking for someone to give her alms. *Let me go and glean in the fields of those who allow me*, (2,2). As we have said before, that was actually a right, a charity by law.

Ruth works diligently to gather enough for herself and Naomi and is pleasantly surprised by the generosity of the owner of the field. She shares this experience with Naomi, and together they realize that fortune has led them to a hopeful opportunity.







Boaz, a relative with an obligation to them, can fulfill his duty not through strength or power, which they lack, but through the resourcefulness of the poor: strategic planning, support, boldness and moral conscience Ruth offers all that she has: herself, her renunciation of a young man, and she accepts what Boaz provides: his assurance to fulfill his obligation, his promise of support, and even though he is an old man, he chooses her, for which she is grateful.

Ruth's hope is that she will not return to her mother-in-law's house empty-handed, a clear reference to the new life she anticipates from their night together. While Naomi had returned to her homeland "empty" (childless), Ruth returns laden with a bounty of sheaves. They learn to trust that life will continue to unfold through the events they encounter. Having done all they can within their power, they now simply need to have faith.

- **Questions:**

- *What resonates within you from this text?*
- *How do you keep your first zeal/call alive and burning?*
- *Make a timeline and point out the moments in your life that have transformed you through dedication and service to others, and share it.*





June, 2025

- **Song:** Confidence by Sofia Padilla, RJM  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDUjf7hLfZU>

*Trust, rest, abandon yourself in my hands. (2)  
Don't be afraid, you don't go alone, I take you by my hand,  
you just have to believe, I will always be.*

- **Biblical Text:** Ruth 3, 1-18
- **Reflection:**

***Place your trust in others and dare to love.***



The Book of Ruth is a testament of hope, but it is not found in grand schemes or ambitious projects of rulers. Instead, hope emerges and is played out in the everyday acts of kindness and fidelity on the margins of life. In the midst of their darkest hour, Naomi and Ruth make a bold decision to trust one another and embark on a new path. From their dire poverty, they rely on the promise that the right of the poor to glean will be upheld, and they are not let down. They place their faith in the integrity of honorable men and relatives like Boaz, who fulfils the obligations to their poor relatives, who not

only redeems their land but also cares for them, fulfilling their hope beyond expectations.

Hope grows gradually through the small, earnest efforts of two widows, the benevolence of God, and Boaz's righteousness. They embrace the risk of love and are astonished to see that from their seemingly hopeless situation, from their poverty without a future, a child named Obed is born in Bethlehem. *Obed, the servant, becomes a symbol of salvation for the people* (4:17).

**Questions:**

- *What resonates within you from this text?*
- *How do I live God's providence in my daily living?*
- *How do you feel about taking risks even when things are not clear for you?*