

“When you harvest your land, don’t harvest right up to the edges of your field or gather the gleanings from the harvest. Don’t strip your vineyard bare or go back and pick up the fallen grapes. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am God, your God.

LEVITICUS 19:9,10 – THE MESSAGE

When you harvest your grain and forget a sheaf back in the field, don't go back and get it; leave it for the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow so that God, your God, will bless you in all your work.

When you shake the olives off your trees, don't go back over the branches and strip them bare - what's left is for the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow. And when you cut the grapes in your vineyard, don't take every last grape - leave a few for the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow.

Don't ever forget that you were a slave in Egypt.

DEUTERONOMY 24:19-22 – THE MESSAGE

One day Ruth, the Moabite foreigner,  
said to Naomi, “I’m going to work;

I’m going out to glean among the sheaves,  
following after some harvester who will treat me kindly.”

Naomi said, “Go ahead,  
dear daughter.”

And so she set out. She went and started gleaning  
in a field, following in the wake of the harvesters.  
Eventually she ended up in the part of the field  
owned by Boaz, her father-in-law’s relative.

A little later Boaz came back from Bethlehem,  
greeting his harvesters, “God be with you!”

They replied, “And God bless you!”

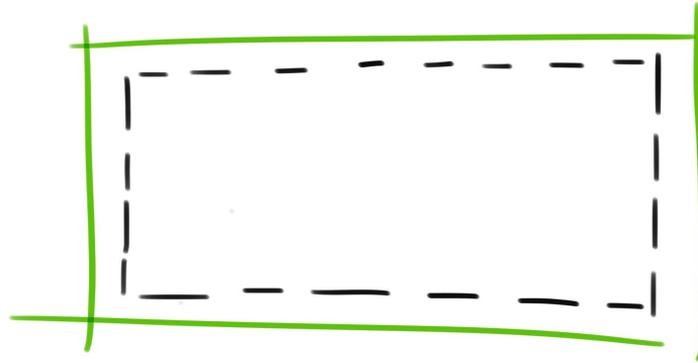
Boaz asked his young servant who was foreman  
over the farm hands, “Who is this young woman?

Where did she come from?”

The foreman said, “Why, that’s the Moabite girl,  
the one who came with Naomi from the country of Moab.  
She asked permission. ‘Let me glean,’ she said,  
‘and gather among the sheaves following after your harvesters.’  
She’s been at it steady ever since, from early  
morning until now, without so much as a break.”

Then Boaz spoke to Ruth: “Listen, my daughter.  
From now on don’t go to any other field to glean  
- stay right here in this one. And stay close to my young women.  
Watch where they are harvesting and follow them.  
And don’t worry about a thing; I’ve given orders to my servants  
not to harass you. When you get thirsty, feel free to go and drink  
from the water buckets that the servants have filled.”

RUTH 2:2-9 – THE MESSAGE



**PEOPLE OF THE MARGINS**