

Beloved brethren in light of the hope of the coming revival, as we press toward the glory of God being poured out in our midst, I found it expedient to send this excerpt from the sermon I preached at Sean and Preethi's wedding, "A Funeral in the house of mirth: Bitter before the sweet." That sermon was very prophetic and was birthed out the greatest agony my soul has heretofore undergone, thus I trust you will be edified and encouraged to keep seeking the God of all truth. I've been burdened for a couple weeks to send this out, and in light of the recent hymn by sister Kaylyn "Glean among the sheaves," I felt it a timely word indeed.

"While in the Adirondacks, I sat reading the book of Ruth one night, and the Spirit of God came upon me, and began to open up this beautiful little book to me. What I saw was so precious to me. I saw a great revival. And I saw what it takes to get it. You've got to gain the eye of The Lord. I saw that His eye was upon His people and He was laying the sheaves so that we could gather, He was giving us handfuls of purpose to glean to our fill, and we were no longer reproached neither were we rebuked. David said, "Keep me as the apple of the eye." But there are two aspects here needed to see a revival, not only to be manifest in each individual, but also as a people. First, we see a woman who has lost everything, and her daughters-in-law who have lost much, though they have their youth yet. We then see a daughter-in-law, namely Ruth, who set her face to count the cost and go through with God. But what I have seen of late that really made me stagger was that you need a Naomi in order to have a Ruth. Naomi calls herself "Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me." She says, "I went out full, and The Lord hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing The Lord hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?" It is inevitable that God will take you through the bitter before He takes you through the sweet. He's got to take you to your own funeral before He takes you to the wedding. I don't believe God can use a man that has not suffered great humiliation and affliction. I don't believe He will, for out of this great humbling comes great victory and triumph and in this case the very thrown of David. Now then, as Ruth, this godly young widow, begins to lay hold on Christ, we begin to smell the rains of revival, now mind you until Ruth was redeemed, I do not believe she was altogether saved! [See Note below] But she saw something by faith that she ran after! She didn't look back! She didn't care what the rest of the world had to offer, she didn't care about another husband of her own kinsmen after the flesh! She didn't desire the young men that worked with her, she didn't care to just have fun in this life. She desired a spiritual headship! She desired Christ! And when she reached the land of Naomi's God, she went into the field that was of the kindred of Naomi, into the harvesting field of Boaz! And what did she do? She gained the eye of Boaz, a man of great wealth! For her deeds though she be a stranger in that land she was favored in the sight of The Lord! "11 And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother in law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore. 12 The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust. 13 Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight, my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine handmaid, though I be not like unto one of thine handmaidens. 14 And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come thou hither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the reapers: and he reached her parched corn, and she did eat, and was sufficed, and left. 15 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: 16 And let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her not. 17 So she gleaned in the field until even, and beat out that she had gleaned: and it was about an ephah of barley. 18 And she took it up, and went into the city: and her mother in law saw what she had gleaned: and she brought forth, and gave to her that she had reserved after she was sufficed." Revival is a move of God by His sovereign hand and outstretched arm. You see Boaz began to lay before her the best fruits of the harvest that she might glean by His hand yet as though she were attaining it herself! She then continued to labor until the work of the harvest was complete, and by this time Naomi's bitterness it seems is turning toward the sweet, and only after then did she have Ruth sneak in to his chamber, and bid him spread his skirt over her that she might be his wife and she be redeemed. Revival

takes much work and obedience before The Lord of the harvest that He might see fit to use you to establish and birth something new and fresh for His glory! As Ruth comes nigh the redemption of The Lord, He says first I'll have to take you to the nearest kin, which I believe represents the law of God! The next of kin to the grace of God is the law, and you've first got to go to the law to see whether you be worthy to be redeemed under the law! But lo she was condemned by the law, Boaz says, Ho, such a one! Turn aside, sit down here. And the kinsman took ten men! And when Boaz entreated the kinsman to buy the land and redeem it, and makes mention of having also to redeem the Moabitess woman with it he says this, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I mar mine inheritance!" The law refused to raise up the seed of Christ because by the law none shall be redeemed nor justified! "20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight:" Once it saw that there was a need for grace to abound the law found itself unable to redeem, and so where the law fell short unto condemnation, grace did much more abound through Christ our redeemer! So it is with every person that desires to come to Christ you must first encounter the law of God which will always show you to be condemned, for none are good no not one! Once you are seen to be unfit, and unworthy, and unclean before the perfect law of God, Christ comes and spreads His skirt over you that you might be His wife! That's revival! Revival is two fold you see, it begins with God's people tasting of the bitter cup of God's wrath, and them turning from their sin, and in form returning to the House of God in repentance, as it was with Naomi returning unto the people of her God. And then the bringing in of the sheaves of them that knew not God, the Ruth's being redeemed by the blood of the Lamb! When God begins to call His bride to Himself in a land when no other kinsmen can be found! We live in a country searching for every other kin to Christ to put their hope in, but it will never suffice because they are trying to find any other way than the power of Christ's blood to purchase and make new by its redemptive power. In the womb of Ruth was the very line of Christ, to God that He would birth something in us tonight! In you! That revival would spring up out of our own funerals tonight that life might come forth and revive a nation in need of redemption, but it starts by resolving in your heart like Ruth that I'm going to go through with God no matter what the cost! Friends, please understand that there is a cost to go through with God, it will cost you your life, and everything you hold dear, even after you're saved, it doesn't change. I've lost everything I hold dear in my life, I have felt of late, especially close to brother Job in my afflictions. In my life I have lost every friend I've ever had, I've lost my family though God I trust is still striving with them, I've lost my house, my wife, my son (though as Job I trust The Lord will bring them home.) I hold nothing dear unto myself save the cross of The Lord Jesus Christ and the surpassing greatness of knowing Him who died to set me free. I'm not sure what your life looks like, but do you bear in your bodies the marks of The Lord Jesus Christ? Are you ready and willing to serve Christ, whithersoever He would have you go? Will you be sent to your grave tonight that you might live unto God through Jesus Christ?!"

Note: Brother Jake thought it would be profitable, for the sake of clarity, for me to expound the point of why I said that Ruth was not "altogether saved." To be clear Ruth was certainly saved when she forsook all and clave unto Naomi! However, in a prophetic, present progressive and revival since she was not altogether saved, needing still to, as it were, fulfill her calling and make her election sure. There are many aspects of salvation that can be seen in Ruth, I am mostly addressing the revival since of salvation and the means of grace to see a move of God in covenantal power.

God speed dear brethren, may you obtain grace to behold the King in His beauty.

Brother Cory