



Reading the book of Ruth

DID YOU KNOW?

1. The book of Ruth is a beautiful description of pastoral life; beyond the story of Ruth's fidelity, various aspects of the Lord's redemptive work are clear. Boaz, the close relative with the right of redemption, prefigures Christ, and Ruth represents those who, having entrusted themselves to Him, have committed themselves to new life.
2. In the Old Testament, God had defined social programs for the poor (Lev. 19:9-10; De. 24:19-22). One of these programs, illustrated in this verse (Ru. 2:17), commanded that the field should be harvested, expressly leaving a few ears of corn for the poor to glean. The poor of that time did not beg but ate their bread by the sweat of their brow.
3. The name Mara that Naomi asks people in her country to call her means the opposite of her real name. "Naomi" means "graciousness" or "pleasantness"; while "Mara" means bitterness. Probably, Naomi referred to the story of Exodus concerning the waters of Mara (Ex.15: 22-23) to call herself this way. She was no longer in abundance. Rather, she was afflicted by the death of her husband and two sons. (Ru. 1 :1-5, 20)
4. The right of redemption was a right that someone had to redeem or buy back a family member who had been sold as a slave (De.25:47-49), a piece of land that had been sold for economic reasons (De.25:23-28), or a family name. (De.25:5-10)
5. Ruth, the Moabitess, is Jesus' great and great-grandmother. From Ruth was born Obed, who himself begat Jesse, David's father. And in the line of David came forth the Messiah of Israel and the Savior of the world who is Jesus Christ. (Ru. 14:17)