



# Ruth's Open Door - Part 3: Provision in Unexpected Places

by John Himmelberger

## Intro

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Provision doesn't always look like a miracle, it might look like a field, a friendship, or a hard day's work. In this session, we see how Ruth's small steps of faith, gleaning, serving, staying loyal, became the very path to God's provision. You don't have to orchestrate favor. Just be faithful where you are and let God surprise you.

## My Intention and Assumptions

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I hope that your relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is strengthened through this teaching. My assumption is that you have read or are reading all 66 books of the Bible for context. This is meant to be 'salt' and make you thirsty. You're welcome.

## About the Author

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John Himmelberger is a teacher, pastor, and lifelong learner. With decades of experience walking with Jesus and leading others into transformational truth, John brings a grounded yet radical perspective rooted in Scripture, personal growth, and kingdom living.

<https://johnhimmelberger.com> | [johnhimmelberger@gmail.com](mailto:johnhimmelberger@gmail.com)

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## Introduction: God's Provision in Unexpected Places

Have you ever looked at your circumstances and wondered, “Where is God in all of this?”

Sometimes, His provision doesn't come wrapped in the way we expect. It might look like an ordinary opportunity, an unlikely relationship, or even a challenge that pushes us to trust Him more deeply.

Ruth's story is a beautiful example of how God provides through the unexpected. She didn't know that her choice to follow Naomi, her decision to glean in the fields, or her humility in approaching Boaz would open the door to God's extraordinary provision—not just for her, but for generations to come.

Today, we'll explore how God often meets our needs, not in the ways we imagine, but in ways that reflect His character, His timing, and His purpose.

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## God's Provision in Unexpected Places

### 1. Provision Through Relationships

- **Ruth's Connection to Naomi:**

Ruth's decision to stay with Naomi opened the door to her redemption. What seemed like a tragic relationship became a lifeline for Ruth's future. God often uses people to bring His provision, whether it's through encouragement, wisdom, or divine connections.

- *“Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.” (Ruth 1:16, AMP)*

- **Modern Parallel:**

Sometimes, God places people in our lives to guide, challenge, or walk with us. These relationships may not always be easy, but they are often His provision for growth, healing, or opportunity.

- **Reflection Question:** Who has God placed in your life as a source of provision? How can you steward those relationships well?

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## 2. Provision Through Obedience in the Ordinary

- **Ruth Gleaning in the Fields:**

Ruth didn't wait for a miracle to come to her; she stepped out in faith and worked in the fields. Her humility and diligence positioned her to meet Boaz. God's provision often meets us when we faithfully steward what's right in front of us.

- *"So she went out and began to glean in the fields behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz..."* (Ruth 2:3, NIV)

- **Modern Parallel:**

Obedience in the small things often creates the opportunity for God's provision. It could be faithfulness in your job, stepping into a calling that feels daunting, or simply showing up when you feel like giving up.

- **Reflection Question:** Are you faithfully stewarding the field God has placed you in, even if it feels mundane or unimportant?
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## 3. Provision Through Divine Timing

- **Ruth's Encounter with Boaz:**

Ruth didn't orchestrate the timing of her arrival in Boaz's field—it was divine. God's provision often comes when we align our steps with His timing, even when we don't fully understand the plan.

- *"The steps of a [righteous] man are directed and established by the Lord when He delights in his way [and He blesses his path]." (Psalm 37:23, AMP)*

- **Modern Parallel:**

God's timing may not match our expectations, but it's always perfect. What

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looks like a delay to us is often God setting the stage for something far greater than we can imagine.

- **Reflection Question:** Are you willing to trust God's timing, even when it feels delayed or uncertain?
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### Key Lessons from God's Provision in Unexpected Places

#### 1. God's Provision Doesn't Always Look the Way We Expect

- Ruth didn't expect her provision to come through hard work in a foreign land or through Boaz, a man she had never met. God often provides in ways that challenge our perspective and stretch our faith.
  - **Reflection Question:** Have you overlooked a provision from God because it didn't look the way you expected?
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#### 2. Faithfulness Positions You for Favor

- Ruth's faithfulness to Naomi and her willingness to work hard in the fields brought her into alignment with God's provision. Faithfulness in small things often leads to greater blessings.
  - *"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much..."* (Luke 16:10, NIV)
  - **Reflection Question:** In what areas of your life can you commit to greater faithfulness, trusting that God sees and rewards even the unseen?
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#### 3. God's Plan Is Always Bigger Than What We See

- Ruth's story didn't just end with her redemption—it became part of the greater story of Jesus Christ. Our steps of obedience and trust often ripple into God's larger purposes in ways we can't imagine.

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- **Reflection Question:** How might God be using your current season to align you with His bigger plan?
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### Practical Applications and Encouragement

- **Look for God's hand in the unexpected:** Be open to seeing His provision in relationships, opportunities, or even challenges.
  - **Stay faithful in the field:** Even if it feels small or unimportant, your obedience matters to God.
  - **Trust His timing:** Rest in the knowledge that God is never late. His provision comes at just the right time.
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### Closing Thought

God's provision often comes through unexpected places—relationships, small acts of obedience, or His perfect timing. Like Ruth, when we choose to trust Him and step through the doors He opens, we position ourselves to experience His faithfulness in ways that go beyond our imagination.

What unexpected door might God be asking you to walk through today? Trust Him, take the step, and see how He provides.