

Chapter 2

Ruth gathering eares of corne in Booz field, 8. he kindly biddeth her tarie with his feruantes. 17. At night she returneth carying good quantitie of corne, and part of the meate, which they gaue her, to her mother in law.

And Elimelech her hufband had a cofin, a mightie man, and of great riches, named Booz. ² And Ruth the Moabite faid to her mother in law: If thou command, I wil goe into the field, and gather the eares of corne, that shal efcape the handes of the reapers, wherefoeuer I fhall find the grace of the father of the houle fauorable towards me. To whom fhe answered: Goe my daughter. ³ She went therfore and gathered the eares of corne after the backes of the reapers. And it chanced that the owner of the fame field was Booz, who was of the kinred of Elimelech. ⁴ And behold, he came out of Bethlehem, and faid to the reapers: ^a)Our Lord be with you. Who answered him: Our Lord bleffe thee. ⁵ And Booz faid to the yongman, that was ouerfeer of the reapers: Whofe maide is this? ⁶ To whom he answered: This is that Moabite, which came with Noemi, from the countrie of Moab, ⁷ and she defired that she might gather the eares of corne that remayne, folowing the fteppes of the reapers: and from morning vntil now she ftayeth in the field, and not fo much as for a very moment hath she returned home. ⁸ And Booz faid to Ruth: Heare me daughter, goe not into an other field to gather, neither depart thou from this place: but ioyne thy felfe to my maides, ⁹ and where they haue reaped, folow. For I haue commanded my feruantes, that no man moleft thee: but if thou shalt thirft alfo, goe to the fardels, and drinke the waters, wherof the feruantes alfo doe drinke. ¹⁰ Who falling on her face and adoring vpon the ground, faid to him: Whence cometh this to me, that I should find grace before thine eies, and that thou wouldest voutfawe

^a The Church vfeth this falutation in the holie facrifice and other diuine office.

to know me a ftrange woman? ¹¹ To whom he answered:
Al thinges haue beene told me, which thou haft done to
thy mother in law after the death of thy hufband: and
that thou haft leift thy parentes, and the land wherein
thou waft borne, and art come to a people, which be-
fore thou kneweft not. ¹² Our Lord ^{a)}render vnto thee
for thy worke, and God grant thou mayeft receiue ^{b)}a
ful reward of our Lord the God of Ifrael, to whom thou
art come, & vnder whose winges thou art fled. ¹³ Who
faid: I haue found grace in thine eies my lord, which haft
comforted me, and haft fpoken to the hart of thy hand-
maide, which am not like to one of thy maides. ¹⁴ And
Booz faid to her: When the houre fhall come to eate,
come hither, and eate bread, and dippe thy morfel in
the vinagre. She therfore fate at the fide of the reapers,
and she heaped to her felfe polent, and did eate and
was filled, and tooke the leauinges. ¹⁵ And from thence
she arofe, to gleane the eares of corne after her maner.
And Booz commanded his feruantes, faying: Yea and if
she wil reape with you, forbid her not: ¹⁶ and of your
owne handfuls alfo caft forth of purpofe, and let them
remain, that she may gather them without bashefulnes,
and gathering let no man controwle her. ¹⁷ She gleaned
therfore in the field vntil euening: & that which she had
gathered beating with a rodde & threfhing she found of
barley as it were the meafure of an ephi, that is, three
bushels. ¹⁸ Which carying she returned into the citie,
and shewed to her mother in law: moreouer she brought
forth, and gaue her of the remaynes of her meate, wher-
with she had beene filled. ¹⁹ And her mother in law faid
to her: Where haft thou gathered to day, and where haft
thou wrought? bleffed be he that hath had mercie on
thee. And she told her with whom she had wrought: and
she told the mans name, that he was called Booz. ²⁰ To
whom Noemi answered: Be he bleffed of our Lord: be-
caufe the fame grace, which he had shewed to the liuing,

^a Booz doubted not but reward was due to good workes.

^b Yea a ful reward, answerable to Ruth pietie: VWhich muft be
fpiritual and eternal.

he hath kept alfo to the dead. And agayne she faid: The man is our nigh cofin. ²¹ And Ruth, This alfo, quoth she, he commanded me, that fo long I should ioyne my felf to the reapers, til al the corne were reaped. ²² To whom her mother in law faid: It is better my daughter, that thou goe forth with his maides to reape, left in an other mans field fome may refift thee. ²³ She therfore ioyned her felf to the maides of Booz: and fo long reaped with them, til the barley and the wheate were layd vp in the barnes.