

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 husband 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 escape the handes of the reapers, wherefoeuer I fhall find the grace of the father of the houle fauorable towards me. To whom she answered: Goe my daughter. ³ She went therefore and gathered the eares of corne after the backes of the reapers. And it chanced that the owner of the same field was Booz, who was of the kinred of Elimelech. ⁴ And behold, he came out of Bethlehem, and faid to the reapers: ^aOur Lord be with you. Who answered him: Our Lord bleffe thee. ⁵ And Booz faid to the yongman, that was ouerfeer of the reapers: Whose maide is this? ⁶ To whom he answered: This is that Moabite, which came with Noemi, from the countrie of Moab, ⁷ and she desired that she might gather the eares of corne that remayne, folowing the fteppes of the reapers: and from morning vntil now she stayeth in the field, and not so 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 selfe to my maides, ⁹ and where they haue reaped, folow. For I haue commanded my feruantes, that no man molest thee: but if thou shalt thirst also, goe to the fardels, and drinke the waters, wherof the feruantes also 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 sacrifice 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 husband: and that thou haft leift thy parentes, and the land wherein thou waft borne, and art come to a people, which before 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 whofe 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 handmaide, 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 therefore 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 handfults alfo caft forth of purpofe, and let them remaine, that she may gather them without bashefulnes, and gathering let no man controwle her. ¹⁷ She gleaned therefore 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, wherewith 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: becaufe 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 also to the dead. And againe she said: The man is our night coffin. ²¹ And Ruth, This also, quoth she, he commanded me, that so long I should ioine my self to the reapers, till all the corne were reaped. ²² To whom her mother in law said: It is better my daughter, that thou goe forth with his maides to reape, left in another mans field some may refitt thee. ²³ She therefore ioined her self to the maides of Booz: and so long reaped with them, till the barley and the wheate were layd vp in the barnes.