

Exceptional Kindness

Ruth 2.1-23

***“With God things don’t just happen,
every thing by him is planned.”***

1. God is always several steps ahead of us, vs 1-2

- ***a man of substance v1***
rich in grace
- ***provision for the poor v2***

2. God guides our steps without us always realising it, v3

- ***“as it turned out” - thanks to God***

3. God works most easily through people of grace, vs 4-9

- ***the secret of grace – humility***
John 1.14; 2 Cor 8.9; 1 Pet 5.5
- ***grace towards workforce v4***
awareness of God with them

*work becomes a joy when done
with God at our side*

Col 3.23-24

*workers respond to grace
with grace of their own*

Num 6.24-26

- *grace towards his business v2
gratitude breeds generosity*
- *grace towards a foreigner vs5-6
part of the family v8
protected v9, 22
provided for v9*

**4. Loyalty towards others will be
noticed and rewarded, vs 10-13**

- *our reputation goes before us v11*
- *loyalty eventually results in
restoration of what we've lost
reward for what we've done
refuge under God's wings*

- **God's wings provide**
safety Ps 17.8;
refreshment Ps 36.7-8
shelter Ps 57.1;
joy Ps 63.7
reassurance Ps 91.1
- **we can be the answer**
to our own prayers! vs14-16
through providing for others

5. There's always a light at the end
of our darkest tunnels, vs17-23

- **work hard - in faith v7**
- **bitterness gave way to blessing**
v20

“Let him who walks in the dark
trust in the name of the Lord”
Isaiah 50.10