

Life Group Questions

March 24, 2019

Ruth: Covenant Faithfulness

Ruth 2:10-23

10 Then she fell prostrate, with her face to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor in your sight, that you should take notice of me, when I am a foreigner?” **11** But Boaz answered her, “All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. **12** May the Lord reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!” **13** Then she said, “May I continue to find favor in your sight, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, even though I am not one of your servants.”

14 At mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come here, and eat some of this bread, and dip your morsel in the sour wine.” So she sat beside the reapers, and he heaped up for her some parched grain. She ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. **15** When she got up to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, “Let her glean even among the standing sheaves, and do not reproach her. **16** You must also pull out some handfuls for her from the bundles, and leave them for her to glean, and do not rebuke her.”

17 So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. **18** She picked it up and came into the town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gleaned. Then she took out and gave her what was left over after she herself had been satisfied. **19** Her mother-in-law said to her, “Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you.” So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, “The name of the man with whom I worked today is Boaz.” **20** Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “Blessed be he by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!” Naomi also said to her, “The man is a relative of ours, one of our nearest kin.”^[b] **21** Then Ruth the Moabite said, “He even said to me, ‘Stay close by my servants, until they have finished all my harvest.’” **22** Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, “It is better, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, otherwise you might be bothered in another field.” **23** So she

stayed close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests; and she lived with her mother-in-law.

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. After Ruth is allowed to glean the fields in the beginning of Chapter 2, she has this exchange with Boaz. How does Ruth identify herself?

2. Why does Boaz hold Ruth in such high esteem?

3. Last week, we read the following passage from Leviticus 19:

⁹When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God. (*Leviticus 19: 9-10*)

How does Boaz follow the law? How does he go beyond it? What does this tell us about the character of Boaz?

4. Later, when Ruth tells Naomi of her encounter with Boaz, Naomi rejoices. She says that Boaz is a relative, “one of [their] nearest kin.” The Hebrew word here literally translates to *redeemer*. The root of the word can mean *avenger*, *to buy back*, or, in this case, the close familial ties of a *close relative*. Read the following passage from Exodus 6:

²God also spoke to Moses and said to him: “I am the Lord. ³I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty,^[a] but by my name ‘The Lord’^[b] I did not make myself known to them. ⁴I also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they resided as aliens. ⁵I have also heard the groaning of the Israelites whom the Egyptians are holding as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. ⁶Say therefore to the Israelites, ‘I am the Lord, and I will free you from the burdens of the Egyptians and deliver you from slavery to them. I will **redeem** you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. (*Exodus 6:2-6*)

How does the word “redeemer” seem to fit into the passage above? What are the similarities between the roles/responsibilities of God for the people of Israel, and for Boaz and his extended family (Naomi and Ruth)?

5. *Challenge:* For the past three weeks, we have been encouraged to try to practice each of the spiritual disciplines covered in the sermon on March 3rd (Silence/Solitude, Prayer, Study/Meditation, Fasting, and Acts of Mercy/Service). Have you been consistently practicing this discipline? What has been your experience through the past three weeks?

6. Finally, we will ask the communal questions:
 - Where have you seen/felt God in the last week?
 - Where are you seeking God?