

EVERYDAY FAITH: "Finding Favor – Part 2"

INTRODUCTION

- In **Ruth chapter 2**, we move from the theme of enduring sorrow to enjoying favor.

Last Week:

- Ruth's Request (2:1-7)** – Ruth does the next obvious thing. She embraces the providence of God and takes the next logical step.
- Ruth's Reliance (2:1-7)** – Ruth acts in reliance upon God's Word. The key to finding favor is to act in light of God's Word (Psalm 1:1-3).

RUTH'S RECOGNITION (RUTH 2:4-5)

- Verse 5** – This is the *first meeting* of Ruth and Boaz. Ruth marvels that Boaz has taken notice of her (v.10)

How Ruth was noticed:

- Providence** – This meeting is not a coincidence, it is a providence. It is flawlessly orchestrated by the hand of God. (Biblical examples: Moses, Abigail, Esther).
- Presence** – Ruth did the right thing by caring for her mother-in-law. She didn't neglect her responsibilities. She didn't sleep in.

RUTH'S REAPING (RUTH 2:7, 17)

- Verse 7 - Ruth proves to be a good worker and God blesses that labor.**

Daniel Block, "A Theology of Work" from the Book of Ruth:

- Food is God's gracious gift to human effort.
- Work is an expression of commitment to the well-being of your family.
- You and I can express a fear of God and the worship of God in the workplace.

RUTH'S REPUTATION (RUTH 2:11-12)

- There is no description of Ruth's physical appearance. The focus is on her character.
- 3:11** – Ruth is called a "virtuous woman" (NKJV); "a woman of excellence." (NASB)

"If I take care of my character, my reputation will take care of itself." (D.L. Moody)

RUTH'S REFUGE (RUTH 2:12)

- Ruth's trust in God is described as **taking refuge under His wings**. This is a beautiful picture of God's protection (Psalm 36:7, 91:1-2; Matthew 23:37)

RUTH'S RETURN (RUTH 2:17-23)

- Naomi is excited to see Ruth return from the field.** God is doing a work in Naomi.

Dale Ralph Davis – at the end of each chapter, the narrative keeps coming back to Naomi.

RUTH'S REDEEMER (RUTH 2:20)

- The concept of "**kinsman-redeemer**" (Hebrew: *goel*) – one way that we enjoy God's favor is by people who live up to their obligations and fulfill their responsibilities ("everyday saviors").

Sermon Application Questions

June 21, 2020

PERSONAL RESPONSES

Daniel Block has reflected on “A Theology of Work” as found in the story of Ruth:

1 “Ruth was eager to work hard to support herself and Naomi. ‘Let me go to the field,’ she implored, and when she was given a chance to work, her co-workers reported that ‘she has been on her feet from early this morning until now, without resting even for a moment’ (Ruth 2:7). Her work was exceptionally productive. When she came home after her first day at work and beat out the barley from the stalks, her harvest yielded a full ephah of grain (Ruth 2:17). This amounted to approximately five gallons of barley. Both God and Boaz commended (and rewarded) her for her faith and industry (Ruth 2:12, 17–23; 3:15–18).”

What are some excuses Ruth might have made to justify not going to work?

What possible motivations would have driven Ruth to labor faithfully?

How can we learn from the work ethic of Ruth?

D.L. Moody has said, “If I take care of my character, my reputation will take care of itself.”

In Ruth 2:1, **Boaz** is called “a worthy man” (ESV); “a man of great wealth” (NKJV).

In Ruth 3:11, **Ruth** is called a “virtuous woman” (NKJV); “a woman of excellence” (NASB).

2 Why are examples like Boaz and Ruth so needed for men and women in the church today?

For Women: How would you use the narrative of Ruth to disciple a younger woman in the faith?

For Men: How would you use the example of Boaz to encourage younger men to pursue spiritual excellence?

DIGGING DEEPER

1 Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week’s sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

Psalm 36:7-8

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

Psalm 91:1-2

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

Dale Ralph Davis has noted that at the end of each chapter, the book of Ruth keeps coming back to a focus on Naomi.

2

- Read: **Ruth 1:19-22**
- Read: **Ruth 2:20-23**
- Read: **Ruth 3:16-18**
- Read: **Ruth 4:13-22**

What is the progression of Naomi's experience through the book of Ruth?

Why do you think that each chapter ends with a focus on Naomi?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1

Pastor Philip exhorted us: "We all have responsibilities towards each other. Fathers have material obligations. Married couples have sexual obligations. Elders have pastoral obligations. Neighbors have societal obligations. Government has legal obligations. Children have parental obligations. Christians have evangelical obligations. People are waiting for us to help rescue them from the situations they find themselves in. **People are depending on us. If we don't come through, they won't make it through. . . You have an obligation and responsibility.**"

Who do you have a responsibility to bless and help today?

How can you faithfully fulfill that responsibility?

2

Ruth's trust in God is described as **taking refuge under his wings (Ruth 2:12)**.

This is a beautiful picture of the protection of God – "Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions, the LORD alone guided him, no foreign god was with him." (Deuteronomy 32:11-12)

In what situations of life have you found it necessary to take refuge under the LORD's wings?

How does this picture speak comfort to your soul?
