

“Being an Influencer/Changer in God’s World- No Excuses!”

Ruth 2:1-23 7/07/19

Sermon Series- God’s Providential Faithfulness and His Invitation to Us

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

Romans 15:4 (see also 1 Cor 10:11)

Hesed- “A Hebrew word that no one English word can begin to convey accurately. Being expressive of relationships, the term connotes altogether the notions of **covenantal loyalty, faithfulness, kindness, goodness, mercy, love, and compassion.**” K. Lawson Younger, Jr.

Background Texts- Lev 26:3-4; Deut 28:15-68 (famine/death); Deuteronomy 25:5-10; Lev 25; Num 35 (Levirate marriage/redemption of land/name)

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and the foreigner... When you reap your harvest in your field, and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.” Lev 19:9-10; 23:22; Deut 24:19-22

Themes of the book of Ruth- God’s Sovereignty, Providence, Hesed. His invitation to act out our own Hesed and partake in His work in the world.

Lesson 1- The author is inviting us to learn and imitate the *hesed* of GOD

- 1) God is sovereign and His providence is always in motion (vs “chance”)
- 2) God is working to turn our **tragedies into triumph** (Rom 8:28)
- 3) God cares of the vulnerable (Deut 24:19; 27:19; Lev 19:33-34; Prov 19:17)
- 4) God rewards those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6)
- 5) God graciously overlooks our foolish rants, pity parties, anger (Ps 103:1-18)

Lesson 2- The author is inviting us to learn and imitate the *hesed* of BOAZ

- 1) First word is YHWH; 2) Kept the Mosaic Law; 3) Not racist; 4) Generous beyond social expectations (Prov 19:17; 14:31); 5) Evangelist (2:12); 6) Gave God the glory; 7) Protected vulnerable; 8) Served foreigner food; 9) Fruit of the Spirit as we see in Galatians 5:22-23

Lesson 3- The author is inviting us to learn and imitate the *hesed* of RUTH

- 1) Took initiative; 2) Humble; 3) Hard worker; 4) Works without knowing the whole story; 5) She didn’t make excuses for being a foreigner or a victim class;
- 6) Faithful as she fulfilled her commitment to stay with Naomi

Our Vision- Striving to be Disciples who make Disciples