



Part 2: The Odd Couple

INTRODUCTION — The Gospel According To Ruth

You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you possess eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

~ John 5:29-40 (TNIV)

LOOK TO THE BOOK – Ruth Brings Home The Bacon

Ruth 2

Taking care of the poor
Leviticus 19:9-10; Deuteronomy 24:19-20

He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

~ 2 Corinthians 3:6

Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

~ Matthew 5:17

Kinsman Redeemer
Leviticus 25:25-55; Deuteronomy 25:5-10

TAKE OUTS – I'll Have That To Go Please

TAKE OUT #1: Moving From Law To Love

Biblical rules point to a reality beyond themselves. Behind every rule is a relational principle, a loving motive, the heart of God. When we know God's heart, we'll know how and when to break the rules. Jesus is the key to getting God's heart. A Jesus perspective should inform how we read Scripture and how we live life.

TAKE OUT #2: Seeking First The Kingdom of God

Ruth does not pursue a husband. She pursues God and the love of the family he has already given her. THIS is what makes her attractive to Boaz and leads to her eventual marriage. What are you seeking more than God's kingdom? (**Matthew 6:33**)

TAKE OUT #3: Lord of the Chance

Look for signs of God at work through the coincidences of life. And even if we don't see it now, or get answers to the questions of our suffering now, we can have confidence that God is at work and will bring good out of it. (**Proverbs 16:9**)

TAKE OUT #4: Welcoming the Outsider

Boaz helps Ruth on two counts: a) he meets her practical need and, b) he treats her like part of his community. Who are the Ruths in our world that need welcome as much as provision? Let's start right now, right here.

CONCLUSION – Seeing Jesus On Every Page

Matthew 5:17; John 5:29-40

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. Take time to review this week's message. Talk about what most challenged, puzzled, or encouraged you.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

2. Read through Ruth 2 again. A) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? B) Naomi seems to have turned inward and shut down. Ruth turns outward and takes action. What clues can you find in the text so far to help explain why this might be? C) Ruth requests to do more than the Torah called for. Boaz likewise goes beyond the letter of the law and shows extravagant kindness to Ruth. How is this a picture of the Gospel? D) The "he" in verse 20 is ambiguous. It could refer to God or Boaz. In what ways has God worked in your life through other people? Talk about specific examples. E) Are there times you have been aware of God working through you? Talk about it.

SO WHAT?...

3. What "Take Out" is most relevant to your life at this time? How so? What specific action can you take in response?
4. Meditate on **2 Corinthians 3:6**. A) Why do you think it is easier to live by the letter of the law rather than the spirit? B) How do Ruth and Boaz demonstrate the truth of this verse? C) How should this verse inform our Scripture study? How should it inform how we live? List some practical examples if you can.