



Part 4: Colouring Outside The Lines

INTRODUCTION — Review: Risky Business

The majority of the world's women and girls will experience violence; whether it's physical, psychological or sexual violence, it plagues every community and many homes.

~ World Vision's 2007 briefing paper to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

LOOK TO THE BOOK – Beyond The Call of Duty

Ruth 4

TAKE OUTS – I'll Have That to Go Please

TAKE OUT #1: Beyond the Battle of the Sexes

Maleness and femaleness are qualities that have their origin in God. Men and women both represent God's image to one another. Together, in cooperative partnership, we can represent God's image to the world with greater clarity. Whether through marriage or in other brother-sister partnerships in the church, men and women should find ways to experience and express our partnership.

Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:18; Genesis 3:16

TAKE OUT #2: Dying to Live

The unnamed relative redeemer is not an example of selfish, evil egoism as much as someone following conventional wisdom, unshaped by the radical other-centredness of God's love (*hesed / agape*). By trying to protect his future name, he remains forever nameless. By seeking to protect his security and comfort, he loses out on God's miraculous partnership. By seeking to maintain his future legacy, he misses out on having a share in the biggest legacy of all: a place in God's plan of salvation. Are you following the wisdom of culture or Christ?

Luke 9:23-25; 1 Corinthians 15:31

CONCLUSION – Taking Up Your Cross

Luke 9:23-25; 1 Corinthians 15:31

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 4 again. A) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? B) What things about this passage remind you that the Bible is an ancient document embedded within a foreign culture? And what things in this passage remind you that the Bible is not only embedded within a culture, but challenges cultural norms. (If time permits, answer the same questions about the entire book of Ruth.) C) What do you think **verses 16-17** describe concerning what happens to Obed?

SO WHAT?...

3. Review TAKE OUT #1: A) Brainstorm implications. In what ways could Christians do a better job expressing the principle of partnership? B) What are some practical things you could do this week to better express God's image?
4. Review TAKE OUT #2: A) In what ways might you be like the nameless relative, protecting your life rather than laying it down? B) What are some examples of areas where the common wisdom of this world might conflict with the radical life of love Jesus calls us to? In what areas are you most tempted to listen to the wisdom of culture rather than Christ? C) Take time to meditate on **Luke 9:23-25** and pray.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, July 26, 2009