

SERMON NOTES

Sunday 2nd July

sunnysidechurch

Stories of faith: Boaz

Bible passage: Ruth 3.7-18; Matthew 19.16-22

Boaz's story: responding wholeheartedly and generously to God's call to love him and love our neighbour

- Boaz is everything that Ruth and Naomi are not, but the ways in which he shows kindness to Ruth and Naomi show why he is seen as a man of standing

Boaz has a godly character

- Can see from his deeds that he is a man of God
- Does not exploit Ruth's vulnerable position
- Acknowledges greater rights of another guardian-redeemer

Boaz responds to the demands of the Law with generosity

- Notices and generously provides for those in need, going beyond the minimum demanded by the Law of Moses
- Recognises the humanity and dignity of Ruth

Boaz fulfils his responsibilities even when they are costly to him

- Gives generously to Ruth and Naomi
- Willing to act as guardian-redeemer to keep Elimelek's land in the family and provide the dead man with an heir by marrying Ruth

Conclusion

Through Boaz's godly actions God redeems Ruth, Naomi, Israel and ultimately the world through Jesus Christ.

Some questions for discussion

1. Can you think of a time when someone has gone the extra mile for you and done more than the minimum to help you?
2. Read Ruth 3.7-18. What do you notice about this passage?
3. Boaz is described as a man of standing (worth or excellence) Ruth 2.1. What evidence of this do we see in his story?
4. Read Matthew 19.16-22. In what ways do Jesus' words to the rich young man challenge you as you follow Jesus?
5. Boaz is a guardian-redeemer. Read Leviticus 25.23-25 and Numbers 27.8-11. Why might this be costly for Boaz?
6. In what ways does the story of Boaz help us understand more fully what it means to call Jesus our guardian-redeemer?
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through these passages? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

For God has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1.13-14

Why not spend some time thanking God for redeeming us and and pray for those who need to experience his restoration today?

Revd Rebecca Fardell