

SERMON NOTES

Sunday 16th July
sunnysidechurch

Stories of faith: God at work

Bible passages: Ruth 4.9-17; Acts 13.21-31

Introduction

- God has been at work throughout the stories of faith in the Book of Ruth
- God's providence a key theme of the book: God is present and active in his world and in the lives of his people

God is at work in his world and our lives

- View of the world framed by faith in a God who cares, provides and protects
- 'I believe in Christianity as I believe that the Sun has risen not only because I see it but because by it I see everything else.' C S Lewis

God is at work through us

- God often work through us to show his care and kindness to others
- Empowered and inspired to love others by God's love for us

God is at work in tough times too

- God is with us even as we walk through the darkest valleys (Psalm 23)
- Call to lament with hope that God can and will redeem all things

Conclusion

The greatest story of faith in the book of Ruth is the story of God's faithfulness (his *Hesed*) to his people

Some questions for discussion

1. Where have you seen God at work in your life recently?
2. Read Ruth 4.9-17. How does the faith of the characters affect their ability to see God at work in the lives of Naomi and Ruth?
3. Through the book of Ruth, we have seen prayers for blessing and for God to show his kindness. In what ways might this passage show us the answers to these prayers?
4. How might you be part of God's answer to your prayers for others?
5. Read Acts 13.21-31. What do you notice about this passage?
6. Looking back on our lives often gives us a better perspective on how God was at work especially in difficult times. Can you think of some examples from your own life where you have found this to be true?
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!

'Praise be to the Lord' (Ruth 4.14)

Why not spend some time praising God for his kindnesses to you, and asking him to help you see where he is at work in your life and the life of Sunnyside?

Revd Rebecca Fardell