

4. Boaz followed the gleaning law at a time of rampant disobedience to God in Israel (see passages below). What kind of external and internal pressures to cave and keep everything for himself would he have experienced?

Judges 2: ¹⁰ After that whole generation [i.e., Moses' successor Joshua's generation] had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel. ¹¹ Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord.... (See also 3:7, 12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1.)

Judges 17: ⁶ ...everyone did as they saw fit. (See also 21:25.)

5. Think in terms of world history and living standards around the world. What actually is "enough" from this broader perspective?

6. Read Philippians 4:12 (below). How can we "learn" to be content even when we are in a time of need and living in want?

Philippians 4:¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

Everything

"Possessing Unassailable Happiness"

The Book of Ruth

When we're convinced that everything belongs to God, we experience greater _____.

Ruth meets Boaz because he is practicing compassionate generosity in a culture of _____.

Judges 2: ¹⁰ After that whole generation [i.e., Moses' successor Joshua's generation] had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel. ¹¹ Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord... (Judges 3:7, 12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6; 13:1)

"...everyone did as they saw fit." (Judges 17:6; 21:25)

In the days of the Judges, when everyone was doing what they saw fit, Boaz was faithfully practicing the compassionate _____ required by the biblical law. He allowed the poor, the widows, the orphans, and the foreigners to glean from his fields. (Deuteronomy 24:19-22; Leviticus 19:9-10)

Think of a farmer looking back at his field after harvest and seeing all he had to _____ behind to be in compliance with the laws of Moses.

People who practice biblically-based, compassionate generosity possess an unassailable _____ at their core.

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



When other farmers in Israel were driven to accumulate more and more, Boaz evidently felt he had _____ to share, and he believed his _____ was a gift from God.

How many followers of Jesus fail to steward their money and possessions faithfully and generously because they think they don't have _____? The "\$5" they have in their pocket is not _____ in their minds, so they hold on to it tightly.

In a world where most are driven to accumulate more and more, do you and I believe we have _____ to share and that our _____ is a gift from God?

Envy, jealousy, and greed are not only deadly sins, they _____ the joy out of our lives.

Philippians 4: ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

Hebrews 12: ² ...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

2 Corinthians 8: ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Think about a time when you went out to eat and splurged to celebrate something in your life. Afterward, did it feel like it was worth it?
3. Read Deuteronomy 24:19-22 and Leviticus 19:9-10 (see below). What do you learn about God and his concerns from this law?

Deuteronomy 24: ¹⁹ When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. ²⁰ When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow. ²¹ When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow. ²² Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. That is why I command you to do this.

Leviticus 19: ⁹ "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰ Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God.