

5. How does Boaz demonstrate good stewardship of his influence and affluence in Ruth 2?

6. Think back to the story pastor Henry tells from the book Jayber Crow, where the wealthy man generously helps out a young man who is an orphan. He doesn't consider his generous gift to be a burden because he knows he has been blessed with so much more. What are your thoughts on pastor Henry's conclusion that "the reason for the failure of most followers of Jesus to be generous and faithful stewards of their stuff is a failure to know what is enough and that their enough is a gift of God."

7. What do you believe are the keys to growing a more generous heart in Christ?

8. Looking back over this week's sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply?

SERIES: Ruth: Unexpected Redeemer

SERMON 3: "God's Providence (Part 2)"

TEXT: Ruth 2-3

DATE: December 12/13, 2015

GOD'S PROVIDENCE CALLS FOR ACTION

Because God is already at work on his purposes, he invites us to act and engage for his purposes.

9. Hard _____.
Ruth 2:1-7,17

W_____ isn't passive.

God's plans and his salvation will be _____ for you. Nothing you are facing now and no tragedy you experience will keep God from accomplishing his good plans, and that's good for you, if you belong to him.

2. S_____ Planning
Ruth 2:20; 3:1-5,10-13

Faith is not about simply letting things _____.

Don't make the mistake of calling what Naomi does _____, while, at the same time, calling biblical men's planning and tactics strategic.

3. Compassionate _____.
Ruth 2:1,4

Boaz is an exemplary good steward of his influence and his _____.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Ruth 2-3

The reason for the failure of most followers of Jesus to be generous and faithful stewards of their stuff is a failure to know what is _____ and that their _____ is a gift of God.

When you fail to give faithfully to God, you are _____ into what belongs to God and you are declaring to God that what he has given you is not _____.

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.**

Philippians 2:4-11

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

A servant. Born in a manger. God became flesh and dwelt among us.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

His body, broken for us. His blood, shed for our forgiveness.

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

✳ During Advent our DailyLife devotional will guide you in praying through four of the songs found in the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke. The goal is to help you prepare for the HOLY DAY that Christmas is. To receive DailyLife sent to your email, write "DailyLife" on your Communication Card. Make sure we have your current email address. If you do not receive it within the next few days, check your email spam or promotions box.

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. How do you see the providence of God and your hard work working together?
3. Read Ruth 2:19-20 and Romans 8:28-29. The Bible teaches that God's plans and his salvation will be good for you. Nothing you are facing now and no tragedy you experience will keep God from accomplishing his good plans, and that's good for you, if you belong to him. How do you reconcile the tragedies of life with Romans 8:28-29?
4. Read Ruth 3:1-5. Naomi is a strategic planner. Her planning and tactics have to circumvent her circumstances. Think back to the story of God. Where else have you seen people of faith acting strategically?