

**Sermon Outline - Sun, July 10, 2022**  
A Kin(g)dom Kind of Love

**Keyword Summary** – Love; Ruth; Kin(g)dom

**Overview** – Last week Jamie kicked off our conversation about a Kindom Kind of Love as we explore what it means to really practice jubilee as we make family of each other. Drawing from the work bell hooks she challenged us to lean into the power of love.

**Exegesis**

- Book of Ruth is all about love in the midst of drama and trauma
- They are living in times where life is challenging - Economic insecurity, immigration and nativism issues, deep vulnerability of women
- Last week we looked at the story of Ruth and Naomi – very real love. Ruth saw her mother and was willing to commit to her. Naomi experienced the healing love of Ruth but also was able to keep it real about her grief.
- Love is hard to define but we know it is not the stuff of fairy tales. Real love often comes from real challenge and this book shows that in a number of relationships. Last week we saw Ruth’s love for Naomi, this week we see how Boaz showed kin(g)dom love to Ruth
- Considered one of the great (Cinderella-like) love stories in the Bible, but we are looking at the moment before that

**Key Points**

**1. He looked beyond her socio-economic status and saw her spiritual virtue.**

NOTE – We don’t need everyone to be perfect to see their virtue. It is possible that Ruth had character flaws not mentioned. It is not about perfection but that she had deep integrity where it mattered and that was worth lifting up.

**2. He was clear about the societal injustice and used his privilege to protect and support her.**

He sees that it is unsafe for a woman alone in the fields so he connects her with other women and he encourages his workers to let grain drop so that she and others can collect it.

**3. He did his best to lift her up without denying her agency or trying to look like a hero.**

Boaz’s acknowledgement of Ruth is public but his work to support her is more behind the scenes. Given all the ways she has been stripped of agency, it is key that he doesn’t swoop in but supports her with tools that help her to find he own way forward.

**Questions**

1. As you look at the folks you come in contact with, where are these individuals or groups of folks who are often seen for their deficiencies that you are called to see the virtue in? How are you lifting that up to them directly and in ways that challenge others to also see them?
2. Where can you use your privilege to support and protect folks who are vulnerable to injustice? How can we do that collectively in a way that deepens impact? How would you have to shift in your daily orientation to be able to see these opportunities?
3. How can our kin(g)dom love come from a place of deep solidarity and appreciation of the other rather than charity and an expectation of acknowledgement? What would need to shift in your giving/justice work to make it more reflective of kin(g)dom?