

Sermon Outline - Sun, July 24, 2022

A Kin(g)dom Kind of Love

Keyword Summary – Love; Ruth; Kin(g)dom; Kinsman Redeemer

Overview – This is our 4th week in the theme a Kin(g)dom kind of love. We have done a chapter at a time looking at the power and practicality of Kin(g)dom love. This book is all about love in practice. About folks who choose to love each other in powerful ways that offer an example to us all what love looks in the midst of suffering and inequity.

Exegesis

- Recap – In the 1st Chapter, Ruth chooses to stay with Naomi and stick it out; Chapter 2 – Ruth gleanes at Boaz's fields, and he hooks her up but in a low key way; Chapter 3 – the scandalous “uncovering of the feet” and Ruth asks Boaz to marry her; Now Chapter 4 – Boaz works it out with the 1st in line redeemer
- The Jubilee practice that God lays out is about making sure everyone is taken care of, but it is still laced with or practiced with lots of patriarchy
- This is a master class in to finding a blessing outcome in a broken system.
- **Boaz understands that the system is broken.**
- **He listens to Ruth and uses the levers of power to get the best possible outcome for Ruth.** (Brings in elders, in public place, requires marrying Ruth, puts other guy first.)
- He functions from a place of humility to minimize drama and maximize justice

Key Points

1. **Solidarity is about true humility and opening your eyes to see others needs and experiences.** Boaz knows the dynamics in the field, Surprised by Ruth's interest, Making sure she has what she needs. He doesn't see himself as overly special.
2. **Sometimes solidarity requires using your privilege within the system on someone else's behalf, rather than confronting it in a way that blows back on others.** If he protested the system in this moment what would that have meant for Ruth and Naomi

I have seen folks talk about justice but not live it in their interactions. A person's commitment to justice is how they move with their family, the folks who serve them and strangers in the world. We are preparing to enlarge our family and now is a good time to assess our culture as individuals and a collective

Questions

1. Boaz shows a kind of deep humility that drives his love. He neither falls into congratulatory sacrifice nor allows himself to be walked over. Are you more inclined to operate from seeing yourself as greater than or less than others? How are you called to find the balance between boastful pride and low self-esteem?
2. Sometimes we don't have an accurate sense of how we move in the world. Who can you check in with to get a better sense of how others experience you and whether you move with love and humility?
3. In what systems do you have power or privilege? Do you use that privilege or reject/ignore it? How can you use your privilege as a tool for love and solidarity with other people (be specific.)?