

Sermon Outline - Sun, July 17, 2022
A Kin(g)dom Kind of Love

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

Overview – For the past two weeks we have been working from the theme a Kin(g)dom kind of love. First we looked at the chose family relationship of Ruth & Naomi. Last week we focused on the initial encounter between Ruth & Boaz as she goes out to glean in the fields. We noted that Boaz demonstrates kin(g)dom love when he looked beyond her socio-economic and saw her spiritual virtue, he used his privilege to protect her from oppression and he affirms her agency rather than give charity.

Exegesis

- Last week we looked at a more plutonic relationship between Ruth and Boaz, but in this scripture their relationship takes a clear romantic turn.
- There is quite a bit of controversy in this scripture – the question being – Did they have sex? Did Ruth go to Boaz with the intention on getting her groove on and convincing him to marry her? There is a lot of debate and I think that their time wasn't purely plutonic.
- There is all kind of patriarchy in this AND they are navigating it well. Shout out to Boaz.
- If either person had behaved slightly differently, this could have been a hot mess.
- Ruth clearly goes with the intention of getting a boo and this could have been an opportunity for Boaz to take advantage of her.
- Ruth asks Boaz to step up as a kinsman redeemer to marry her.
- Kinsman redeemer is based on a custom established in Leviticus 25 which lays out the ideas of Jubilee. It basically says if someone falls into debt their closest male relative is supposed to come out.

Key Points

1. **Boaz sees Ruth's strengths and considers her from a place of humility** on his turf he had the upper hand but he does not see his wealth as a reason to see himself as better.
2. **Even when he could serve his interests honorably, Boaz looks out for Ruth's best interest** – He could easily say yes and have his great wife, but he realizes there might be a "better" option for her and he waits to put her interests first.
3. **He gave again generously without tying it to the outcome for him** – Boaz gives freely because she has needs, without knowing what the outcome will be.

Questions

1. When you are building relationship or serving people do you see them from a place of equality or even see the places where they have strengths different from yours? How can we follow Boaz's example of looking beyond worldly markers of privilege to see the heart of people?
2. There was an easy win/win if Boaz just said yes, but he went through an extra length to make sure Ruth was in the best possible position. Can you think of a time when someone did that for you? Can you think of when you have or a situation when you have the chance to do this for someone else?
3. How can your generosity be about meeting needs and not transactional?