

Ruth 2:1-23

Series – Under the Stars of Bethlehem

Message – Glimpses of Providence

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Fifth Reformed Church

Jon Sherrill

Recap

- “In the days when the judges ruled...”
- Bethlehem means “_____ of bread.”
- Elimelek means “God is _____.”
- Naomi means “be pleasant, lovely.”
- Naomi’s experience is _____ experience.
- *Hesed* = loving faithfulness; covenant _____

Risky Love

- *Hesed* – loving faithfulness – involves _____ on behalf of someone in need.
- “...the gleaning of fallen grain was mere subsistence living, much like trying to eke out survival today by recycling aluminum cans” (Robert Hubbard, The Book of Ruth, p.138).
- This going to the fields was a _____ step.
- Ruth’s _____ is coming into focus.
- Ruth’s _____ is coming into focus.
- “As luck would have it...”
- Through the _____, Ruth acted with *hesed* (loving faithfulness, covenant loyalty), courage, and humility.

Word Gets Around

- “Just then Boaz arrived...” (Ruth 2:4).
- “Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?” (Ruth 2:10).

- I see you, Ruth!
- Acting more Jewish than most Jewish people I know...
- Romans 8:28-29
- Our actions _____ what we really believe and who we really are.

Glimpses of Providence

- Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the house of bread, as the ultimate _____ for us. He is the Bread of Life.

Reflection Questions

1. If you’re willing, share from your life a “Naomi experience,” i.e. an experience that left you wondering about God’s providence.
2. Have you, or do you have now, a “Ruth” in your life – someone who accompanies you into the darkness? Who is that person, and what have they done for you?
3. Have you ever sensed called to take a risky step, like Ruth going out into the field? What was that and what was it like?
4. Think of specific situations in life. When have you seen the truth that our actions reveal what we really believe and who we really are?
5. Have you ever caught of glimpse of God’s providence in a difficult season of life? Share that with the group.
6. How is God getting your attention?
7. What might God be saying to you?
8. What are you going to do about it?