

Theme: God calls His people to respond to Him in faith and to display a character that is like His.

I. Intro – Review of Gleanings So Far

- A. We have seen that God is Sovereign
- B. We have seen God’s Providence – every area
- C. Yet we are called to be responsible
- D. One key area – character – seen in our text

II. Two Character Studies – Boaz and Ruth

- A. Both have strong faith in God - basis
 - 1. Boaz – 2:4; 2:12; 3:10
 - 2. Ruth – 1:16-17; 2:12
 - 3. Their faith produces their works! (Eph 2:8-10)
- B. Both work hard to serve others - motivation
 - 1. Boaz – 2:8-9, 14
 - 2. Ruth – 2:17-18
 - 3. Their faith is seen in their sweat – hard work!
- C. Both obey God’s law – their guide
 - 1. Boaz – 2:8-9; Lev 19:9-10; 3:12-13
 - 2. Ruth – 3:9-10

3. Not just feelings – obedience to Torah

- D. Both show hesed and go beyond letter of the law – extent
 - 1. Boaz – 2:8-9, 14-16; kinsman redeemer
 - 2. Ruth – 1:8; 1:15-17; 3:10
 - 3. Legalism: doing little as possible; hesed: doing as much as possible!
- E. Both known as people of noble character - outcome
 - 1. Boaz – 2:1 (NIV&KJV); 1 Sam 14:52 (NIV& NASB)
 - 2. Ruth – 3:11; Prov 12:4; 31:10
 - 3. Speaks of strength and virtue
 - 4. Their names go down in history
 - 5. Other man is unnamed and forgotten!

III. Becoming Men and women of Noble Character Today

- A. Are we becoming more like Boaz & Ruth?
 - 1. Is my faith producing works – or is it stunted?
 - 2. Am I a hard worker or just collecting a check?
 - 3. Am I obeying God’s law – even when inconvenient?
 - 4. Am I showing hesed – or doing as little as possible?
 - 5. Do I have a good name with others?

B. Are we becoming like Christ – the true example?

1. Remember Boaz and Ruth are types of Christ & church
2. Jesus laid the pattern down – am I following?
3. Cry out to God for strength - & follow Him!

The Value of Godly Character

Ruth 2:5-12

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Ruth 2:12 paraphrase

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:8-10

So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with my servant girls.

Ruth 2:8

9 "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10 Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 19:9-10

Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, from the clan of Elimelech, a man of standing, whose name was Boaz.

Ruth 2:1 (NIV)

And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.

Ruth 2:1 (KJV)

All the days of Saul there was bitter war with the Philistines, and whenever Saul saw a mighty or brave man, he took him into his service.

1 Samuel 14:52 (NIV)

Now the war against the Philistines was severe all the days of Saul; and when Saul saw any mighty man or any valiant man, he attached him to his staff.

1 Samuel 14:52 (NASB)

A wife of noble character is her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones.

Proverbs 12:4

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.

Proverbs 31:10