

Life Group Questions

March 17, 2019

RUTH: BOAZ

Ruth 1:19 – 2:9 NRSV

19 So the two of them [Ruth and Naomi] went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, “Is this Naomi?” 20 She said to them,

“Call me no longer Naomi,
call me Mara,
for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.

21 I went away full,
but the LORD has brought me back empty;
why call me Naomi
when the LORD has dealt harshly with me,
and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”

22 So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

Ruth Meets Boaz

2 Now Naomi had a kinsman on her husband’s side, a prominent rich man, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. 2 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain, behind someone in whose sight I may find favor.” She said to her, “Go, my daughter.” 3 So she went. She came and gleaned in the field behind the reapers. As it happened, she came to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. 4 Just then Boaz came from Bethlehem. He said to the reapers, “The LORD be with you.” They answered, “The LORD bless you.” 5 Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, “To whom does this young woman belong?” 6 The servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, “She is the Moabite who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. 7 She said, ‘Please, let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the reapers.’ So she came, and she has been on her feet from early this morning until now, without resting even for a moment.”

8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. 9 Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped, and follow behind them. I have ordered the young men not to bother you. If you get thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn."

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1. We resume the story with the widows, Naomi and Ruth, seeking security. What new identity does Naomi claim in the opening verses? Why does she do this?**

- 2. We are introduced to Boaz in chapter 2. How does the text describe him in Ruth 2:1? If your group uses different translations of the Bible, try and capture what traits are attributed to him in the different translations.**

- 3. Read the following passage from Leviticus 19. This is a passage from what is called the "Holiness Code," a series of chapters (Leviticus 17-26) instructing the Israelites to live as a holy nation, set apart from the rest of the world:**

⁹When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God. (*Leviticus 19: 9-10*)

What is this text instructing the Israelites to do? What would this mean for ancient farmers? What is the heart behind this instruction for Israel? How could you take this instruction, originally intended for an ancient farming society, and apply it to us today?

- 4. Ruth has set out to glean the fields around Bethlehem. How does Boaz honor the law from Leviticus 19?**

5. How does Boaz live up to his description in Ruth 2:1 throughout the rest of the passage?

6. **Challenge:** For the past two weeks, we have been encouraged to try to practice each of the spiritual disciplines covered in the sermon on March 3rd (Silence/Solitude, Prayer, Study/Meditation, Fasting, and Acts of Mercy/Service). Have you selected one of these disciplines to practice through Lent? Have you been consistently practicing this discipline? What has been your experience?

7. Finally, we will ask the communal questions from the past few weeks:
 - Where have you seen/felt God in the last week?
 - Where are you seeking God?