

Boaz – ‘Come over here’

Introduction

Over the last few of week’s we have thought about lives of the main characters from the book of Ruth. Today its Boaz turn, and he invites us to ‘come over here’.

Come over here?

In the book of Ruth we discover God holding everything together. Each occurrence in the book of Ruth seems weaved together by God. An example of this ch 2:3 where we here this about Ruth;

*So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. **As it turned out**, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek.*

Listening to the book of Ruth unfold we sense human action and divine action at work. In ch 2:14, the story moves toward Ruth and Naomi’s redemption.

*¹⁴ At mealtime Boaz said to her, “**Come over here**. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar.” When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over.*

Ruth got noticed. I wonder if you have ever felt noticed. Like Boaz called Ruth, so does Jesus call and beckon us ‘come over here’.

Jesus invites us to come and follow him.

Both Matthew and Mark record Jesus calling his first disciples ‘Come, follow me’. Jesus of Nazareth ‘the Son of God’ was at work in the world calling people to follow him. Christian faith begins with invitation, just as it did for Ruth, she could have declined Boaz invitation, but God was at work.

The Apostle Paul testifies to the God who is at work in our lives orchestrating them toward a good end. (Romans 8:28)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who^[i] have been called according to his purpose.

Jesus invites us to come and sit

Jesus doesn’t only call us to follow him, he invites us to sit and eat with him. One of the first things that Boaz did for Ruth was make sure she was well fed. Ruth and Naomi had been through an awful time and the first thing she needed was an act of human kindness.

When we gather around the Lord’s table it is by invitation an invitation that I believe is open on Jesus’ side, Jesus doesn’t discriminate look at the company he kept as he gathered on the night that he was betrayed. Jesus invites us freely but we should check our response, do we want to sit with Jesus, will we want to get up from the table to follow him?

Boaz treated Ruth well and provided a way of redemption for her and Naomi but it would mean joining with Boaz. Naomi and Ruth would have to throw their lot in with Boaz. His people, their people, his God their God.

When we hear Jesus call us to come and follow, come and sit, he is calling us to throw our lot in with him. He will become our redeemer, he will settle the account of our sin by his death on the cross, he will set us free but the freedom is to join him to enter into his life by faith.

Conclusion

Naomi's life shows us that life's difficulties need not be the end, God can help us move from bitterness to blessedness.

Ruth's life shows us that friendship is the most precious thing we have, and the most precious friend is Jesus.

Boaz's life shows us that God is at work in our lives he wants to redeem us and invite us to follow him and sit with him.

Now Jesus invites you to come and sit with him, it's an open invitation but if you sit you're pledging to follow, to throw your lot in with Jesus.

Questions

What does it mean to be redeemed? Discuss.

How might we learn from Boaz who show Ruth and act of kindness before he did anything else for her?

By sitting with Jesus at his table you are throwing your lot in with him, how does this effect the way we live?