

Saturday & Sunday, March 3 & 4, 2018 - "Risk - Week 3 - Ruth Ch. 2" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Ruth 2, Leviticus 19:9-10

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Ruth is a historical narrative that doesn't have any commands, but there is a lot to learn
- We are trying to answer the questions: Who is this woman, and how did she come to have a book of the Bible?
- Historical Context: The time of the Judges
 - People we're doing what was right in their own eyes
 - Much like today (relativism)
 - It creates an opportunity for us to shine like stars (Philippians)
- Hesed: radical, extraordinary, uncommon, unpredictable, reckless love
 - This causes us to shine like stars in the world
 - This is what Ruth and Boaz are such an example of in the book of Ruth
- Ruth 2 is all about this radical love and generosity
 - Boaz was a "worthy" man = prominent, influential, wealthy, mighty, good standing, noble character
 - Ruth goes to glean in the fields
 - A common practice in that society
 - On a good day someone could glean a handful of grain (enough for a meal or maybe meals for a day)
 - It was hard work, and only a means of survival
 - Ruth offering to glean is a great sacrifice
 - She "happened to" end up in the field of Boaz...but it's not just luck
 - Even when we don't see God working, he is up to something
 - Boaz extends help and generosity to Ruth
 - He recognized Ruth's sacrifice
 - She laid down her whole life for Naomi, her mother-in-law
 - Boaz saw Ruth's Hesed
 - Boaz does something uncommon and out of the norm
 - Leviticus 19:9-10
 - Anytime God calls us to give is an invitation for us to learn to trust Him
 - It must have been very hard for Boaz to do what he did (coming off of a famine, giving Ruth extra grain and giving her the opportunity to work)
- Generosity is more than just tithing
 - Being willing to give when it seems irresponsible or reckless (Hesed lifestyle → shine like stars)
 - Boaz's generosity equipped and empowered Ruth and gave Naomi and Ruth hope and a future
 - Boaz's generosity and Hesed is a picture of Jesus (Boaz "came from Bethlehem")
 - God's hesed for us is proved and confirmed through Jesus

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How has God been challenging you to live a Hesed lifestyle? What are some steps he has put before you?
2. When is a time you experienced the radical love and generosity of someone else?
3. Has God ever given you an opportunity to "shine like stars"? What was going on and what was it like?
4. How have you responded when God gave you an invitation to trust Him? Was it good or bad? Easy or difficult? What did you learn about yourself or about God?
5. What comes to mind when you think about generosity being more than just tithing?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or message?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Exodus 20:1-17 Tues: Psalm 19 Wed: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 Thurs: John 2:13-22 Fri: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Worship Set from this weekend:

- 1) "Alive" - Hillsong Young & Free
- 2) "Higher" - Grace original
- 3) "King of My Heart" - Bethel Music
- 4) "Reckless Love" - Cory Asbury