

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Ruth // Wings of Refuge

Pastor Marcus

November 6, 2022

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: Which Harry Potter character do you resonate with the most?

Readings: Ruth 2:1-13

Outline:

- I. The Kindness of Ruth
 - a. "The purpose of theological endeavor is not to describe the world in terms that make sense, but rather to change lives, to be re-formed in light of the stunning assertions of the gospel."
- Stanley Hauerwas
 - b. We are called to be shaped by God's word, and shaped by the story of the gospel. This is what discipleship is, and what the church is about. Lives are reshaped by the stunning truth poured out in the gospel.
Q: *What practices can we establish in our lives to spend more time in God's word?*
- II. The Kindness of Boaz
 - a. "How does God judge our faithfulness to our calling? By how we treat the most vulnerable under our care." - Andrew Arndt
 - b. God calls us to be a people to extend kindness to the vulnerable, the hurting, and the poor. We should extend kindness to others in the way that Jesus extended kindness to us.
Q: *Who are people in our lives that we could better extend kindness to?*
- III. The Kindness of Yahweh
 - a. When we extend kindness to the vulnerable, when we give ourselves away for the sake of others, we enter into the joy of our master, who for the joy set before him endured the cross.
 - b. This is what happens when our lives are shaped by the scriptures, when we come under the kindness of God. We become the expression of that kindness.
Q: *How can we learn better compassion for strangers by recognizing that Jesus loved us when we were strangers to God?*

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How can we reshape others' lives by sharing the love of the gospel?
- 2) What are some barriers that prevent us from extending kindness to strangers? What biases get in the way?
- 3) In what ways does our culture value self-preservation over the support of others? How can we counteract this?

Suggestions for further study:

- Ephesians 2:11-13 **Q: *How can we mimic Jesus' love and calling of strangers in our lives?***
- Matthew 25:21 **Q: *How does extending kindness to others bring us closer to the joys of God?***

Closing Prayer:

Father God, we have received infinite kindness from your hands. You have provided everything that we need, especially by sending Your son Jesus. We ask that you would shape us and transform us by the story of the Gospels. Send us into the world to extend your kindness. Let us show your love and your mercy to others. Give us new eyes to see strangers in the way that You saw us. In Your name we pray, Amen.