



An Unexpected Encounter

Ruth 2:1-23

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How Boaz Encountered Ruth (verses 1-7)

1. How were Ruth's circumstances similar to Naomi's? How were they different? What was Ruth's response to her circumstances? Why do you think that Ruth responded the way she did?
2. How would you explain God's sovereignty? In these verses where do you see the sovereignty of God at work?
3. Read Proverbs 16:9. What does this verse indicate about the sovereignty of God and the choices we make?
4. If God is sovereign, how can it be that Ruth and Boaz "happened" to end up in the same field together by seemingly following their own separate random courses of action.
5. How does God in His sovereignty use Ruth's faith to accomplish His purposes?
6. How might our stepping forward in faith be used by God to accomplish His purposes in our lives?
7. Why does Boaz notice Ruth? What does Boaz notice about Ruth? What might Boaz's perspective of Ruth indicate about Boaz's relationship with God?

How Boaz Provided For Ruth (verses 8-16)

1. From today's sermon, how would you define "hesed"? Are there examples of "hesed" that you see going on today?
2. What does Boaz's treatment of his workers indicate about Boaz's relationship with God?
3. How does Boaz provide for Ruth?
4. How is Boaz's provision for Ruth a demonstration of Boaz's character? What do Boaz's actions demonstrate about his relationship with God? How do Boaz's actions demonstrate "hesed"?
5. How does Ruth respond to Boaz? What does her response to Boaz tell us about her relationship with God?
6. Given that Boaz is a "type" of God and Ruth is a "type" of us (i.e. God in the Old Testament using real people to illustrate how He desires to work in our lives) - what does Boaz's response to Ruth tell us about God's desires towards us?

How Naomi Responded To Ruth (verses 17-23)

1. What might Naomi's response to her circumstances (and to Ruth) indicate about her relationship with God? How might Naomi's attitude be keeping her from experiencing "hesed"?
2. Can you relate to Naomi? Do you ever feel like her?
3. What advice would you give Naomi? What advice would you give others around you who may be feeling and acting the same way as Naomi?
4. Do you ever feel like your life is a series of random events somehow strung together as you go lurching along towards some finish line up ahead someplace?
5. How might a deeper awareness of God's sovereignty change your perspective of life? Perhaps another way to ask the question: How might a deeper awareness of God's sovereignty change how you face tomorrow? ...and/or the hard things you are going through right now? ...and/or maybe even the really great things you are experiencing right now?
6. Thinking through the previous question a little more... Two thoughts of application were shared this morning: 1) We need to be looking for where the sovereign God is at work; and 2) We need to be sharing God's "hesed" with others. What do each of these mean?
7. How might you begin to practice these truths in your life?