

LIFE GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The God Who Loves October 13, 2024

Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Kyle explores the theme of love through the story of Ruth, focusing on Ruth 4:1-12. He emphasizes that love is more than just an emotion; it is an intentional act of kindness that often costs something. Despite the personal risk, Boaz's willingness to marry Ruth and redeem Naomi's family reflects this sacrificial love. The Hebrew word "hesed," meaning loving-kindness, loyalty and mercy, shows how God's love inspires humans to love others. The sermon ends by encouraging listeners to reflect on how to demonstrate love that costs something, both toward others and in worship of God.

Scripture

Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the guardian-redeemer he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down.

Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so. Then he said to the guardian-redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelek. I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line."

"I will redeem it," he said.

Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property." At this, the guardian-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it."

(Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.)

So the guardian-redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it yourself." And he removed his sandal.

Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon. I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown. Today you are witnesses!"

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Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. Through the offspring the LORD gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah." Ruth 4:1-12 (NIV)

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 100:5 (NIV)

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. Matthew 16:24-25 (NIV)

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:7-11 (NIV)

Let's Start

Think about a time when someone showed you kindness that cost them something. How did that impact you?

Gratitude and Prayer

How has God worked in your life since we were together?

Let's Talk

1. What does the story of Ruth teach us about love as an action rather than just a feeling?
2. How does Boaz's decision to redeem Ruth and Naomi show a "kindness that costs something"?
3. What is the significance of the Hebrew word "hesed" in understanding God's love?
4. Pastor Kyle talked about "Mr. No Name," the relative who rejected Ruth. What lesson can we learn from his part in the story?
5. In what ways can we show sacrificial love to those around us?
6. How can we express our love for God in ways that cost us something, like Boaz's actions in Ruth 4?

Let's Act

How and to whom can you show a kindness that costs something this week?

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