

*Sermon: The Redeemer series; Date: July 15, 2018*

*Delivered by: Rev. Ben Panner, college pastor*

***Bible text explored: Ruth 2:17–23***

<sup>17</sup>So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. <sup>18</sup>And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied. <sup>19</sup>And her mother-in-law said to her, “Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you.” So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, “The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz.” <sup>20</sup>And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “May he be blessed by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!” Naomi also said to her, “The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers.” <sup>21</sup>And Ruth the Moabite said, “Besides, he said to me, ‘You shall keep close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.’” <sup>22</sup>And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, “It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted.” <sup>23</sup>So she kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law. [ESV]

***Review and application:***

1. Against the cultural and spiritual backdrop described in Judges and the hard realities and difficult choices of Ruth 1, we meet Boaz (Ruth 2) and learn something of the peace that characterizes his life and his fields. Do you see peace in the homes you visit, or the people you meet? What are the evidences of that peace? On what do you think it is based? What are the realities in homes where you do not encounter peace?
2. Do you think people see something different in your home from what they are accustomed to? What are the enemies of that peace in today's world?
3. How would you describe the differences in peace as the world might define it today compared to a Biblical definition of peace?

Boaz believed the Lord and lived by His word – Pastor Ben called it a living faith. Pastor Ben identified 3 characteristics of a man who lives a life of faith based on believing God and His Word.

4. The generosity of Boaz
  - a. What verses in Ruth 2 describe that generosity?
  - b. Did that generosity cost Boaz anything? (Cf. Ruth 2:15-16, for example.)
  - c. How did that spirit of generosity and God's abundance seem to influence Ruth's actions? (2:17-18)
  - d. How has God been generous to you? How are you reflecting that generosity in your life? What might that look like in the life of College Church?
5. The kindness of Boaz
  - a. In Ruth 2:19, Naomi blesses the unknown benefactor. Contrast that with her situation described in Ruth 1:20-21.
  - b. In verse 20, Boaz is referred to as “one of our redeemers”. Pastor Ben described a redeemer as one “responsible for the economic well-being of others in their family.” Are there ways you have seen God's work in human redeemers in your life or in the life of others in your family?
  - c. “Our faith is to be lived out in community and kindness to others.” How has God modeled that for us? What might that look like today?
6. The protection of Boaz

- a. Boaz and Naomi are both concerned about Ruth's safety. How is that seen in 2:9 and 21-23? How would the cultural norms and political realities of Judges 21:25 make her vulnerable?
- b. What might be a contemporary example of the kind of protection Boaz extends?
- c. Who are the vulnerable today and what is our responsibility? (Cf. James 1:27) How might we protect the vulnerable "in our fields" and in the church?

*"Boaz loved the LORD; he lived by his faith in showing generosity, kindness, and protection. May our lives overflow with this as well. May we be pointed to, and point others to, the fullest expression of God's generosity, His kindness, and His protection."*