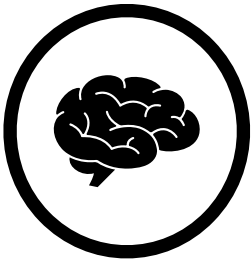


SERMON NOTES

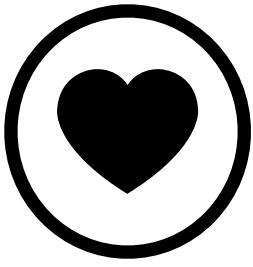
14th May 2023 | Compassionate Leave | Ruth 1: 3 - 18



Exploring the text

Questions for reflection:

1. What was Israel like when the Judges ruled? What was the relationship between the nation of Israel and Moab like, during the time of Ruth?
2. What does the introduction in verses 1-5 add to our understanding of the story?
3. How significant is it that Naomi, Ruth and Orpah are all widows? How does family circumstances, shared grief and economic crisis impact their relationship with one another? Did this create division and disharmony or provide a compassionate conduit to overcome differences?
4. What is Naomi's role in leading Ruth to faith in the God of Israel? How did this unfold?
5. How is God's compassion seen in the book of Ruth?



Connecting our hearts

Questions for reflection:

1. Michelle shared how the compassion of a Christian teacher was pivotal to coming to faith. In what ways do you exercise the gift of compassion to others? What does this look like? Where do people see this evidenced in your life?
2. In a culture of individualism, doing things that seem right in their own eyes, Michelle described the beautiful examples and role models of blended lives, cultures, backgrounds and the appreciation of age in Ruth and Naomi. What can we learn from this example? How can we support the grieving, the migrant, the ones in need of food, companionship, compassion and care?
3. Michelle encouraged demonstrating faith and godly compassion on our frontlines, the place we spend most of our time. Looking at Boaz in 2:4-12, how does he live out his faith and show godly compassion on his frontline?
4. How does the Levirate marriage provision; the 'Kinsman-Redeemer' project forwards to the coming of Jesus? What does this mean for us who are saved? And those yet to know Jesus?
5. Ruth said to Naomi, 'Where you go, I go...' How willing and quick are you to respond to God's compassion and call on your life?
6. Michelle explained the historic practice of gleaning embedded in God's law. What is the current form of gleaning today? And how could you contribute to this from a compassionate stance?



Living it out

Questions for reflection:

1. Who has been a 'Ruth' to you - someone who has gone out of their way to be there for you in a time of need? Thanks God for them and pray for them, let them know, contact them. Share the testimony of this.
2. How often do we share our unedited thoughts about God with our spouse, family or friends? Would you do so knowing God's compassion and love for you?
3. What are some of the ways we as a faith family can make space for others to grow? Is there a missional community action we can support? Food bank volunteer, contributor of food or making a meal for those in need?

Use the below space to write you own prayer of response