

MARINERS CHURCH



Why Can't Things Be Easy?

11.20.22

Just because you think you live a plain, ordinary life doesn't mean that God is not at work.

One day Naomi said to Ruth, "My daughter, it's time that I found a permanent home for you, so that you will be provided for. Boaz is a close relative of ours, and he's been very kind by letting you gather grain with his workers.

Tonight he will be winnowing barley at the threshing floor. Now do as I tell you—take a bath and put on perfume and dress in your nicest clothes. Then go to the threshing floor, but don't let Boaz see you until he has finished his meal. Be sure to notice where he lies down; then go and uncover his feet and lie down there. He will tell you what to do."

So Ruth went down to the threshing floor that night and followed the instructions of her mother-in-law. After Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he lay down at the far end of the pile of grain and went to sleep.

Then Ruth came quietly, uncovered his feet, and lay down. Around midnight Boaz suddenly woke up and turned over. He was surprised to find a woman lying at his feet! "Who are you?" he asked. "I am your servant Ruth," she replied. "Spread the corner of your covering over me, for you are my family redeemer." Ruth 3:1-10

"The land must never be sold on a permanent basis, for the land belongs to me. With every purchase of land you must grant the seller the right to buy it back. If one of your fellow Israelites falls into poverty and is forced to sell some family land, then a close relative should buy it back for him. Leviticus 25:23-25

While it's true that I am one of your family redeemers, there is another man who is more closely related to you than I am." Ruth 3:8-12

**Life should be easy.
Life should be fair.**

"Happily ever after" is for another time and another place.

God has planted eternity in the human heart. Ecclesiastes 3:11

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." -Jesus, John 16:33



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Don't expect easy. Expect God.

But God said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Be convinced that God is working in a thousand ways.

Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end. Ecclesiastes 3:11

"Every day, in every circumstance, God is always doing 10,000 things in your life, but you might be aware of only three of them." -John Piper

For your LifeGroup and growth time.

Read Ruth 3. What is going on? What cultural differences are you seeing between that day and today?

Read Leviticus 25:23-25. What is a family redeemer and why would God want that kind of economy in that time?

We talked about life not being 'easy' or 'fair'. Why do we expect it to be so? How do you maintain balance between pessimism and optimism?

What do you think God was doing in Ruth? In Boaz? In Naomi?

We said that God is working in a thousand ways. What part of life is challenging for you right now? What areas are you finding that He is shaping?

Pray together and support each other!

If you'd like to grow in your faith and connect with others, LifeGroups are a great place for you. For more information, drop us your name and we'll get back to you (emma@marinerscc.org)