Pastor Dave Teixeira
May 24, 2009

A Study in the Book of Ruth

Please use the space below to take notes on today's message:

Take It Homework

We encourage you to not only do these exercises on your own, but also with a group of friends, co-workers, neighbors, small group or family members.

Are you seeing yourself in the story of Ruth yet? Are you aware of the questions this story asks...the challenges it puts forth? I am. I'm painfully aware of my own desire to "take matters into my own hands" like Elimelech. I know my own capacity to turn away from God when times get tough like Orpah. I'm always tempted to spend time in Moab. But this week, we move from the road of ruin and start down the road of redemption.

Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor.

The road of redemption starts with "grace." Ruth is going to go and get some food she doesn't deserve.

- Share a time when, like Ruth, you have <u>received</u> grace—something good that you didn't deserve. (Not in a spiritual sense; not salvation—a tangible example) How did you feel?

- Now, share a time when, like the field owner, you have <u>given</u> grace—something someone didn't deserve and couldn't repay. What was it? Why did you do it? How did it feel?

Another piece of redemption is the "as it turned out" piece. Maybe piece is the wrong word, because this is the whole deal. God is at work. He is orchestrating. He is directing. He is behind, over and underneath everything that is happening. Sometimes we don't see it at the time, but when we look back, we do.

- Think back over your life. Share a time when God was doing something.

- When have you been noticed? Who noticed you? How did it feel? Why do you think humans long so much to be noticed?

- Ruth shows gratitude in the story. When have you experienced gratitude (either showing it or receiving it)? What does gratitude say about and do for your heart (from either side)?

- How do you see the themes of protection and provision in Ruth, chapter 2? What does this say about God? Can you think of any examples from your own life?

- Share one thing that will change about your life because of the message in Ruth, chapter 2.