Pastor Dave Teixeira
May 31, 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.

Last week, we talked about finding hope. We saw how Ruth ended up in the field of Boaz, a man who not only took an interest in her, but also "as it turned out" was a relative of Elimelech. So God, by His strength, grace and sovereignty was working simultaneously in the lives of Ruth AND Naomi. As the Barley harvest ends, Naomi, who once was full of despair and bitterness, now has a glimmer of hope.

As Act III opens, we see that this spark of hope has motivated Naomi to action.

- Why do you think new-found hope motivates action?
- How have you seen this principle in your life or in the lives of people you know?
- What does this mean for unmotivated people in our world? What does it say about their hope?
- How can we bring hope to others? How do you think this relates to the gospel?

Another thing we notice about Ruth and Boaz, is that they are described in the same way. In fact, the word "standing" in Ruth 2:1 (used to describe Boaz) is the same word translated "noble" in Ruth 3:11 (used to describe Ruth). Pam Stenzel, one of my favorite speakers, says "Opposites may attract when it comes to personality, but opposites never attract when it comes to character."

- When you look at your friends, what does their character tell you about yours?

At the end of chapter 3, Ruth is told to move from "go" mode to "wait" mode. I wonder which mode was more difficult for her. She seems more like a "goer" to me, so I'm guessing the "Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens" part of this process was most challenging for her.

- How about you? Do you have a harder time going—stepping out in faith and proactively trusting God; OR do you have a more difficult time waiting—sitting back and allowing God to work and give you an answer, apart from your own efforts?
- Share a time when you've had to "go," and a time when you've had to "wait."
- Is God asking you to be in "go" or "wait" mode in your life right now? Share about that area of your life and ask others to stand in prayer with you as you "go" or "wait."