SERIES: BROKEN DREAMS | WEEK 3 | 2.23.2020

If you've been following along with us you know we've been telling and retelling the story found in four little chapters in our Bible in the book of Ruth. Happened some 1,200-1,300 years before Jesus in a time that no one was thinking about God. I don't want to say "no one" was thinking about God, but the general consensus was: We'll do things our own way. We've got this figured out. We're further along than that old religious stuff, and after all that stuff was given to us a long time ago. We have our own ideas now. Things have moved forward. And so a lot of people were making it up as they went and sort of creating it as they went. And what's sort of cool is in the center of our Old Testament it's as if God zooms in the camera lens, just comes up against this one little family and says, I'm gonna tell you their story and I'm just gonna peel back a few layers and let you peek in and see what was going on behind the scenes. Maybe get to see the bigger picture in what they felt in that moment. It was almost as if He did that same type of thing to you and your family today where He follows you around with a camera for a couple months just to show us what's really taking place.



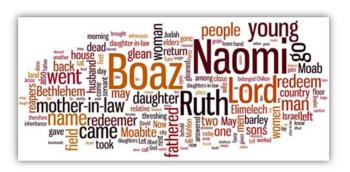
This family, dad was named Elimelech, mom's Naomi, they have two boys, Mahlon and Chilion. They live in Bethlehem, the very place where Jesus would be born. Bethlehem goes into a severe famine, they panic, Elimelech looks around, does his research, Googles it, finds out that just a few miles away in Moab they're not having a famine. He recognizes that everything he had ever been taught that this isn't a good

thing to go to Moab, Moab was a place that basically the people of Moab are descendants of an incestuous relationship that Lot had and they are worshipping a god by the name of Chemosh who insists on child sacrifice. I mean, it was just a mess of a place and God knew if His people got mixed up with those people they would become like that, too, and they'd move away from God. And so He said you can't go over there, but Elimelech, he knew, *Hey, I have to do what I have to do, I have to do what's practical*. He goes over there and before you know it Elimelech has died. So the very thing he tried to protect himself from he ends up dying. But he has two boys and they end up getting married to two Moabite girls, the thing that God would never have asked for in His best plan, but they get married to Ruth and a girl by the name of Orpah. Before too long, before these boys have children, they die and now what we have left is the mother who had come from Bethlehem to Moab and these two daughtersin-law, Ruth and Orpah.

When Naomi hears that back in Bethlehem the famine is over and she goes, *I'm tired of living away from home and this hasn't been a good experience*, and so she tells the girls that she's leaving. As she leaves they follow her for a ways, it was their way of saying goodbye in those days, but when she goes and tells them, *Hey, listen, you can't come with me. It's time to turn around and go back home to your mom*, they say, *No, we're gonna go with you*. She pushes back says, *Listen, there's nothing for you there. There's no men there. I don't have any family line that's gonna marry you there, so you need to go back.* Orpah goes back but Ruth, Ruth says no, and something happens in that spot, in that moment. She professes out loud her faith in God. She goes, *Listen, your God is going to be my God, your people are going to be my people, where you go I'm going to go*, and they head back to Bethlehem.

When they arrive the people at Bethlehem recognize Naomi and they start calling her out by that and she puts up a hand and says, *Don't call me that. Call me Mara*. Mara meant "bitter." She was a bitter lady; life had had its tough times on her and she was a hurtin' unit. And she comes back home and she said, *I left here full and I come back empty*. And so you know, you've talked to people like this and when you just barely mention anything it's just like *Uhhh!* coming back, and that was the case. Last week we ended with the comment at the end of the Chapter 1, it said they arrived at the beginning of barley harvest. And I shared with you that sets up this week.

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I'd like to read to you Chapter 2 of Ruth. I was tempted just to tell you the story, but I think God can do it better. We're a people of The Book – the Bible here and one of the things that I'm confident of is that when we read the Bible it gets to places inside of us that nothing else can. The Scripture tells us that the Bible is sharper than any two-edged sword<sup>1</sup> and it can just get to those places, and so we're just seeking God today for Him to minister to us. And so I would like to read these words to you,

it's a little bit long. If you want to follow along you can, sometimes I find it's just easier in these moments just to listen to the story, to just let the story sink in. So I'm just gonna read it to you.

### <sup>1</sup> Now Naomi

— I introduced you to Naomi a minute ago —

had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. <sup>2</sup>

— we may shorten it from time to time to in this talk to "Bo" —

And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." <sup>3</sup> So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech. <sup>4</sup> And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you!" And they answered, "The Lord bless you." <sup>5</sup> Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers,

"Whose young woman is this?" <sup>6</sup> And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. <sup>7</sup> She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest."



<sup>8</sup> Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. <sup>9</sup> Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn." <sup>10</sup> Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?" <sup>11</sup> But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. <sup>12</sup> The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the

HEBREWS 4:12 (ESV): For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

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Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!" <sup>13</sup> Then she said, "I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants."

<sup>14</sup> And at mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. <sup>15</sup> When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. <sup>16</sup> And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her."

<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.

### - RUTH CHAPTER 2 (ESV)

So they arrived back at the beginning of barley harvest. They have nothing. They're hungry. Ruth wakes up in the morning, she looks at her mother-in-law and says, *I'm gonna go out and glean in the fields today*. That was a risky thing in that time; going to glean in the fields was risky. Let me put that in today's terms. When she says she's gonna go glean in the fields, she's going to go to stand along side of the road with a sign and ask for money, or she's going to go to a food bank to get food because she has nothing.

In that time God had set up a plan for how those who didn't have would be provided for. He told the farmers you just take your land and the corners of the land and don't farm those corners. And in fact, when your harvesters go across the fields make sure that anything that drops, just let it lay in the field and then these people that are in need they can just come alongside or behind them and they can collect what's left on the fields. You can read about that in Leviticus 19. That was God's way of taking care of those who were in need. God created this thing called gleaning where people could come glean and it would take care of them, but it was hard work. The person doing it would have to work hard; it would be hot, it would be laborious. That's the situation that Ruth's in.

What I find fascinating is this guy Boaz. He's a godly man according to this text. He's a man of high standing. He's highly respected. He's very wealthy, well-to-do. He owns all this land, he has all of these workers, and he has followed the rules of God. Probably not everyone did. After all, think about how much more money you could make if you harvested the corners of those fields. Think how much more money you could make if you sent someone back over the fields a second time to clean them up.

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It would be a temptation of an owner of a field to just pick that thing bare—unless you follow God's ways. That on surface level don't seem to make sense in this moment. In fact, Boaz would have there in Bethlehem gone through years of famine. Natural mindset may have said, We gotta do catch up now. We gotta collect a little extra here, we gotta get this stuff sold. And after all, we need to provide more for the market anyhow so this is a good thing. But Boaz knows God says there are always going to be poor people who need provided for, and God says if you'll do it my way I will provide for those people that are need through you, Boaz. And Boaz says, I'll do it that way.



So he shows up this day, this specific day that the story is telling us about, and he arrives at his field. He arrives on a brand new sweet ride of a camel, had air shocks. When he arrived he pulls up and poof, it went down, straight down to the ground, and he gets off, he pulls out a grill, he sends a blessing to his workers, they call a blessing back to him, and he cooks up lunch. He looks over and says, Who's that girl gleaning over there? Oh,

that's Ruth. You remember Naomi, that's the Moabite us that came back with her. And immediately he starts using the word "daughter." We'll find out later that she now, because of her connection with Naomi is family, and he speaks out to her, My daughter, you're family, and invites her in. Invites her even to the protection of his workers; tells his workers, Don't you let a thing happen to her. Remember, I told you it's dangerous out there doing this. Don't let anything happen to her, and if anything make sure she's allowed to come drink the water from the jugs that you're putting out there. And oh, hey, it's lunch time. I made this barbeque for all of you my workers. What a good boss. That's awesome.



**WATER JUG** 

In fact, he made barbecue for the workers, invite Ruth over, have her eat. She sits there and she eats and finally it says when she's satisfied, when she's full—uh, that never happens for me. I can eat and eat and eat and eat and I'll never be full. She's satisfied so he says, Would you like a to go box? And so he grabs



one of those Styrofoam boxes and they pile it in there and she puts the lid on that box. And then he tells his workers, Now, listen, I told you to protect her. And by the way, when you're harvesting leave a little bit more behind than normal. And they would have these bundles as they put all this together, he says pull a few stalks out of the bundles and happen to lay them along the side there, make it easy on her.

I want to pause for a second in the midst of this because one of the glorious parts of this story is the redemption that God gifts even in the midst of a man like Elimelech messing up. I think one of things we need to celebrate is that God is in the process of making beautiful things out of messed up things. And we celebrate that all the time here at Calvary; is that if you've got a messy life, you belong here because our God is a God of grace and He loves you. And that should just cause you to go, I need to be in this place more often, I need that. But there's a sort of a flip side of the coin that I want to throw at you.

So we've been thinking about Elimelech and his family that goes out and the family comes back, yeah, there's some ugliness. And you know, even to a point that Naomi comes back going I'm bitter. But we're gonna find out from really cool things come out of that despite what a messed up situation it is. But let's look at a guy like Boaz for a minute. He didn't leave during the famine. By the time we get to this story he's probably late 30's, early 40's. We're only talking 10 maybe 15 years since Elimelech left with his family. He was an adult, he was farming this land when the famine came on the land. Evidently we see this guy show up on a sweet new ride of a camel with all this land and all this

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provision. Evidently he's doing just fine. He didn't have to run from where God had placed him in that time of famine, and even to this point where he's saying, *Hey, I'm gonna do it God's way and I'm gonna leave room for gleaners to come through my fields*. And what I see here is a guy that just stays consistent and does it God's way even what it doesn't make sense, or even when the events around him, i.e., famine, cause you to question – do I stay stable in this moment?

And I will just give a shout out right now to following God in obedience. The Scriptures talk over and over especially in the Old Testament there's this theme that I see repeated over and over: There is blessing for obedience.

## There is blessing for obedience



What we learn through your Scriptures, hey listen, none of us are perfect, none are righteous, and God's in the business of cleaning up unrighteous people, but He's constantly calling us to obedience, to walking in obedience. And you just see this with this guy Bo, just a guy steady doing it God's way. And there's moments where you don't see anything coming of that, moments where it feels like you're out of control, but just stay there. If you're one that's been walking with Jesus for a long time and there's days where you question, *Does it matter? Does God even notice? Does God even care? Where am I*—just stay strong, stay, stay, stay on the path of doing it God's way. **God will bless that**.

Now let me switch the scenes again and let me go back to Ruth. She gets home to the mother-in-law and it says that she had an ephah<sup>(2)</sup> of barley with her. And you know, the quick question on that is how much is that? And it's a measurement that you when you read through your Old Testament you'll see often being mentioned an ephah of many different types of things. In my mind as I researched it, it looks like it's a big sack of some sort. I'm assuming it's a sack big enough that you can lift up and carry and from understanding it, I was told that it's probably about the weight of a person, a small person is what that is. We're talking about when you get an ephah of barley in a sack, she had to drag that home. It was heavy, there was a lot in that sack that she would take home.



**EPHAH OF BARLEY** 

And the text tells us that not only did she have an ephah but she gets to take that to go container home and she passes that off to Naomi who chows down, *Sure you don't want some?* She goes, *No, I got filled up at lunch, you're hungry, you take care of that.* And they begin to have a conversation and she tells her, *You know, this guy by the name of Boaz was at that field today.* And her mother-in-law steps back and begins to scratch her head, *Wait a minute, Boaz?* And you may remember in verse 3 there was this little phrase in the translation of Scripture I read, it says in verse 3:

<sup>3</sup> So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech.

~ RUTH 2:3 (ESV)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ephah (e•phah, ĕf ä) – Dry measure, Old Testament (approximate): 1 bushel, 9.3 gallons, 35.2 liters (retrieved from http://biblestudio.com/weights\_and\_measures/). Weight of 35.2 liters of grain barley is 46.56 pounds (calculated at https://www.aqua-calc.com/calculate/volume-to-weight).

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The NIV translation of Scripture says it even more powerfully to me, it says:

# 3... As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz ~ RUTH 2:3b (NIV)

If there's one phrase that I wish you could grab this morning it's this phrase, I'll say a bunch of words, if you wrote down this phrase I think it'd be worth your time of showing up this morning: As it turns out. And here's how we would, most of us would translate it, our world that makes up who God is all the



time, this is how they translate it: Oh, by chance! Can you believe it? Of all people I show up in this guy's field that happens to be a relative of Naomi's husband Elimelech, my ex-husband's dad. Crazy how it was. Surprise! I got lucky this day. Pulled the right straw. As luck would have it. And a lot of people they'd say, It's karma. And you go, Let's back up, back up. No, no, no, no, we're not going there. That's not how things work. That's how false religions describe how things work. Because I'm gonna sit in here and tell you today we have a powerful Almighty God and it is not happening, life is not just happening to you. You weren't just wound up and you're just happening to go through it and

happening to bump into a couple of the right things in the course of life that happened to make things work for you. Oh, no. What's going on around you was way more orchestrated than that.

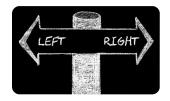
In fact, you don't even have Ruth in this moment; if she hadn't maybe a day before or three days before put a profession of faith in God and put her attention and trust in God. And when you put your trust in God things begin to change and you recognize He is in control. It's not by luck or happenstance, He's got this. We can step back and go, *It's God, that's God, there's something more going on here*. I love, I love the phrase "as it turned out" she was working in Boaz's field. She just left that morning, she's only been there a short amount of time.

Do you ever you ever get off the plane, head to the place where the convention's gonna be held, go to your hotel room, wake up the next morning and you gotta go to Starbucks? And they don't have it in the hotel lobby? And you're just like poking it into your app and you're like trying to figure out I don't want to go to the one in Target, I want to go to the real deal somewhere. And so you're like figuring out how do I get there. Do I have to get an Uber there? I gotta get there. You're totally turned around when you come outside of that hotel door, you don't know if it's that way or that way until you look at your app.





This woman crawls out of, I don't know, her tent that day? and says to Naomi, *I've got to go glean in the fields. I've gotta take care of business.* She doesn't know to turn left or to turn right, she doesn't know



what field to go to and *as it turns out* she ends up in Boaz's field—how does that happen? I'm just gonna tell you how it happens. It happens with a big God and that's why He puts this in our Scripture. Why that family? He's just gonna show you how He works with a family. We're gonna just take a snapshot of a family in a period of time. It isn't any different with you and your family. And what I want you to hear this morning, I think oftentimes we think *God's not* 

doing anything today. It's Sunday, the stock market's closed. nothing can happen today. It's Sunday, we're at church sitting here, I can't be doing work on my phone right now. My life right now, it's on hold, nothing's going anywhere. We're sort of in a holding pattern. We're in a surviving pattern. We're in a waiting pattern. I hope the day is going to change things. And I think what God wants you to see

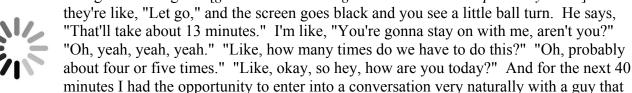
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in this, this girl's just waking up, We gotta find food to eat today because I'm hungry. And God says I want you to know I am going to show up in that moment.

And I think what God wants you to hear this morning is He's very active. We can step back and start going, *Where's God. What's He doing?* And look for Him. And here's what I'm afraid for many of us in this room will say, *That's for someone else*. You've met those people; you've met those people and it seems like God keeps on showing up and doing cool stuff for them but it's never happened to you. You look at me and go, *You're the pastor*, *I get it, probably it happens to you, it's not happening to me*. What do we do with this? I believe the reason God places this on the pages of Scripture is for us to zoom in right now and go, *Wait a minute, maybe God IS working* — to open our eyes and begin to look.

You're waiting in a line. What's God doing in this line? Look in front of you right now, look beside you, who's sitting there? Why that seat today? Who are they? Why are they sitting there? I've never seen them here at Calvary before. Gotta get out of here, we gotta roll, we gotta roll, we gotta roll, we gotta beat the lines. That other church gets out 15 minutes after us, we gotta get there ahead of them, let's go, let's go! Wait a minute, wait a minute, is God doing something right here? Whoa. Why did that happen right now?

I had one of those situation's where the computers all messed up here recently. I call Apple because I'm a Mac guy. It's one of those things where it's like you gotta press CTRL + ALT + 6 + 5 + F1 all at the same time and I'm sitting there doing this [gestures hands being crisscrossed on computer keyboard] and



probably lives in another country that I will never get to about Jesus.

Wait a minute, is it possible that when I went to do that function on the computer that day that a loving God says there's someone in another land thousands of miles away that needs someone to talk to them right now and care about them? You're standing in a line at the grocery store, is it possible you've been placed in that line to talk to that person before or behind you, that person that's frustrated to calm them down, to say a nice word to the cashier? Is there a possibility that God is showing up in this moment about to do something? There's so many times when I find myself in a conversation and I step back and I make this comment, I don't know but I think something was going on there.

And I would share with you I believe that our God is screaming He is active, He is involved, and we need to begin to change our mindset and watch for it. What seemed like a distraction, what seemed like

a big miss, what seemed like time stuck in a waiting room or a hospital or at a waiting room at the dealership. Ever had that moment, you know, they come out, "Uh, Mr. Wiggins, your car's got a little problem and it's gonna cost 895 bucks, and we really would recommend this" – and I don't see God showing up in that. [Laughter] "We'll be done in an hour and a half." Maybe God *is* showing up in that moment.



And Naomi, remember this lady, yesterday when she showed up here, *Naomi! You're back! Love you! It's great to see you!* [Naomi:] *Don't call me Naomi! Call me Mara. I hate everyone and everything and God in life.* And she just flips them all off. Can I say that in church? Breathe. It's okay. When she hears this she goes, *That guy is our kinsman redeemer.* Our text says he's our redeemer. She, it's just

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like she's going, Are you kidding me? Let me tell you who this guy is—your husband, it was his daddy's relative. You know what he's supposed to do? He's supposed to take care of you and buy back the land and protect you in this moment. That's whose land this is. And she exhales and says, May the Lord bless him. How do you get from that angry, hurting lady to a woman saying may he be blessed by God? And in this same text, oh, listen to these words, verse 20 it says:

<sup>20</sup> And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed by the Lord,

— listen to these words —

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."

~ RUTH 2:20 (ESV)

Think about the word *kindness* for a moment, in the Scripture some words are very picturesque. They paint a picture for you. Here's the picture that the word *kindness* paints for you; it's the picture of a conduit from God to someone else. She says to Ruth, *This guy, he was the conduit of God's love to our family*. I read that and I'm like, *I want that*. In fact, I want to be Bo. I want to be that guy that gets to say, *I'm gonna be the conduit to people to show them the love of God, that I'm bringing blessings to them*. It starts out with him getting off the camel going, *Bless you*, and them calling back, *Bless you*. That's fascinating because they're on the job. It's one thing you walk into church here this morning,



Bless you, bless you. Someone sneezes we say, Bless you. Fine, that's just words, but to tell you on the job, it's like, I want blessing for you, and they were saying, Bless you, and then this woman is saying, May that guy be blessed. And we recognize he is used as a conduit of blessing to someone else, I go, Man. And then to think this, that this bitter, irritating woman would be broken down, softened, and relaxed, and a tear comes to a hardened eye because the kindness, the conduit being used by a guy by name of Bo.

So here's how I want to wrap up. I want to ask you if you are a Ruth in this room right now, just look at this text and say, What would I do with that if I'm a Ruth? You're a long way from home. You're in a foreign land. There aren't people loving you around. You don't have what you need to do what you need to do in life, things aren't right. You're confused. You're disoriented; you come out the door and you don't know whether to turn right or left, you have no idea. Here's what Ruth did when she left Naomi that morning, she said, Pray that God's blessing be upon me. I would invite you to, just, God, I need your blessing right now and I'm just gonna sit back and watch what You're gonna do. But she put one foot in front of the other, she started doing, she went out there and started picking. She didn't just wait in her home and say, I'm gonna pray all day. She prayed, God, show your blessing upon me. Show your kindness to me, and she went out and started picking.

If you are a Boaz, statistics would say a lot of you in here are Boaz's. Even some of you that think you're a Ruth, you've sort of gotten just stuck into that mode. It's sort of like Naomi. If you're a Boaz, would you consider today being a conduit of God's love to someone else in this room? Being a conduit of God's love to someone in that waiting room, being a conduit of God's love to someone at your apartment complex, to someone in the line at the grocery store. I think that's message of this text and we have that opportunity. My hope is that each one of us would consider how can I be that conduit of God's love. I'm moved when I hear Boaz being described, I want that. God's blessed me to bless others. I just want that. I need to do better at that.

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One of the things I love and I thank you for all coming here this morning, what I love about all of us getting together is that if we all get together there's a potential we could do more together than we can do individually. That should never keep us from doing things individually, but once in a while I think we ought to do some things together that would be big. So we were thinking about this principle of gleaning and being a Boaz, of kindness. I was talking to Pastor Bob, probably, I want to say six weeks ago as we were thinking ahead towards this message, and he said let me make a few phone calls.

One of the places he made a phone call to was the Chester County Food Bank. He said if we could do something big as a church, he says, I don't want to bring in five thousand different things and confuse it all, but like if we could bring one item into your food bank that would be a blessing, is there something like that? And they said, "Oh, my goodness, yes!" They said peanut butter. They said that evidently a lot of children in our county are what they call "food insecure." They were giving us the percentages; over in Coatesville it's 31.5% that are under the line of poverty, it's like 7% here in Downingtown. A lot



of children who are food insecure go to bed hungry. Oftentimes their parents are working and the kids get home from school and there's nothing around to eat, but when they have peanut butter they can get satisfied.

It bothers me when people don't have enough to eat, and so Pastor Bob and I talked about it, we talked to the Food Bank and said, "What if we just one week ask our church to bring peanut butter in?" And so we're gonna ask

you next Sunday would you bring peanut butter, bring lots of peanut butter, bring it to the blue wall right over there. Everything happens at the blue wall. If you don't know how to get in a small group, go to the blue wall. If you don't know how to get involved in ministry and serve, go to the blue wall, just go to the blue wall. And when you bring something in, bring it to the blue wall. I'm just gonna ask you to bring peanut butter in next week. Maybe you just want to grab one, maybe you're just crazy and you just want to do something crazy and have a tractor trailer of it waiting out front for us next Sunday [Laughter] that'd be fun, wouldn't it? Maybe you haven't been to a grocery store in years and just go on Amazon, [gestures hitting a send button] have it delivered here or your house or whatever. Wouldn't it be cool that we could be the conduit of God's blessing through an organization's that constantly bringing food to people that need it?

We contacted Chester County Women's services this week. They help young girls so much having babies oftentimes in a very difficult time of their lives, and so these girls oftentimes they don't even have the money to provide for their baby once it's born. And one of the things they provide for those babies are diapers. We asked them what would you need and they said, "Oh, diapers; diapers for babies." Pastor Bob said, "Our church, we're gonna bring in truckloads of diapers to you. You better figure out where you guys store them because our church, we can do more together than we can do alone." So church, it's gonna be a one-way thing. I don't want to see diapers laying around here six weeks from now—please.

Next week, if God would so lay it on your heart to be a Boaz, to join all of us at this church to say how are we going to just bring in so much peanut butter that there's no room to move around in the Café because they brought so much and so many diapers. I think that'd be just cool next week. Watch it online, press Amazon, send it to us. If you're wanting to just push it on your own, on your own Facebook or your own Instagram or your own social channel whatever that is, feel free to do so. Wouldn't it be cool if we could be a blessing to people that aren't as blessed? And you know I'd like to even next







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week, if there's a Ruth in this room or some Ruth's in this room and you need peanut butter, come glean in the fields, the corners of the fields are going to be full out here next week. You need diapers, come get it. You have a neighbor that needs diapers, come get it. We want to be a blessing.

Jesus,

We just put that out there and ask for whatever You want to do with your people in this area this week. I pray that we will respond individually and look for that spot where You're showing up to bless others; as a corporate body, we can do so much more. I pray that some cool things would happen this week as a result of it.

And so even, Jesus, as we give right now we realize that this ongoing obedience is blessed and we get to be a part of something so big and it's so fun to be a part of it. So even as we give our gifts and our offerings, O Jesus, bless these, my dear brothers and sisters, who are just continuing to do the right thing every week for just the way they respond.

It's in Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

We're gonna pass the buckets right now and give our gifts back to the Lord as we sing this last song. [Music]

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