

Sunday Sermon Notes

"Family Parish"

Remember the game plan!

Making Christ-like disciples by
Celebrating, Loving, Serving, Bringing

The Upside-Down Kingdom: *(Matthew 20:25-28)*

Jesus came to serve, not to be served
He who would be great must become the slave
We have become a kingdom of priests

Serving is all about needs:

Seeing the need
Caring about the need
Meeting the need

Where is my parish? *(Matthew 28:19-20)*

In the world
In this community
In our church

My first parish is my family: *(1 Timothy 5:8)*

Physically: Provisions
Emotionally: Presence
Spiritually: Guidance

Paul's instructions to families: *(Ephesians 5:21-6:4)*

Wives give support to your husbands
Husbands give yourselves for your wives
Children always show respect to your parents
Parents establish proper boundaries to your children

Priorities in the seasons of life:

When I am the parent
When I am the spouse
When I am the child

Prayer: God, help me be a priest to my family

Digging Deeper

Notes for Individual Meditation and Small Group Discussion

Reviewing the Sermon:

Why do you believe Pastor Rogers makes such an emphasis on "the upside-down kingdom"? What do you think is the main point of this analogy?

Which part of serving do you think most people struggle with? Seeing the need, caring about the need, or meeting the need.

How does seeing our family as our parish help us to keep our priorities right?

Which of Paul's instructions to families gives you something different to think about?

Share with the group times when you have had to make serving your family a priority.

Bible Study: Ruth 1-4

Discussion Questions

(Remember that not all questions must be used)

Our Bible study this week focuses on the entire book of Ruth. It is a wonderful story of family members who faithfully fulfill their responsibility to serve each other. Much of your time this week will be spent just listening to the inspiring story of Ruth as it is read. After each chapter is read, take a few minutes to discuss the examples of serving found in this story.

Read Ruth, Chapter 1.

In what ways did Naomi demonstrate a willingness to serve her daughter-in-laws?

What do you think of the decision made by Orpah? Why do you think Ruth made the decision to stay with Naomi? What do you think you might have done in similar circumstances?

Read Ruth, Chapter 2

What does the fact that Ruth was willing to work so hard gleaning fields tell you about her?

What kind of man does Boaz seem to be?

In what ways do we see examples of serving in this chapter?

Read Ruth, Chapter 3

What do you think of the way Ruth went to Boaz?

How does Boaz's response to Ruth demonstrate a willingness to serve?

Read Ruth, Chapter 4

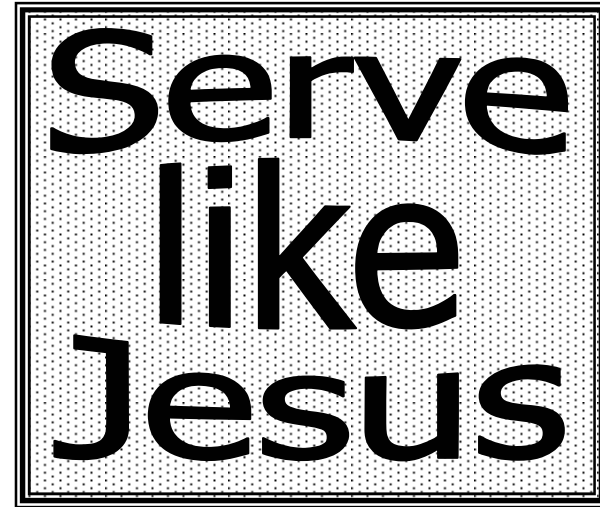
What do you think of the "kinsman-redeemer's" response to the proposition Boaz presents him?

How would you characterize Boaz's willingness to marry Ruth? Was it done out of obligation or was it done because of love?

Who do you think is the greatest example of a servant in this story?

Prayer Time:

Let the members of your group share their greatest challenges in serving their families. Pray for each other about these.



January 27, 2008

Ephesians 5:21-6:4

"Family Parish"

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Master copy of notes and audio version of the sermon at
www.middletownnaz.com