



Ruth *Reading Scripture*

Audio: <http://countrysidefellowship.com/discipleship/sermons-studies/>

Daily Scriptures & Prayer:
<http://countrysidefellowship.com/daily/todays-scripture-prayer/>

➡ Think about how your own household actually treats the holidays — Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter. Which ones are genuinely protected as rest, and which ones just happen to land that way?

➡ Genesis puts the first man in the garden “to work it and take care of it” — that’s not a paycheck; it’s tending. A garden. A household. Grandkids. A body that needs looking after. A church that needs serving. Where does your work actually happen, once you stop assuming it means a job?

➡ Most of us run the workweek on simple math — get through Monday to Friday so Saturday can pay you back. Where do you see that math showing up around you in how people talk about “living for the weekend”?

➡ Colossians 3:23 says to work “as for the Lord, not for men.” If someone watched what you actually did this past week, not what you’d say about it, who would they conclude you were really working for?

➡ In Ruth 4, the nearer kinsman turns down the chance to redeem Ruth because it might “spoil his own estate,” but Boaz had already been telling his workers to pull grain out on purpose and leave it for her. Which one more honestly describes how you use your own time, money, or leftover capacity — protecting your estate, or leaving grain on purpose?

➡ Work isn’t the curse in Genesis — what work costs us is. Where has “just getting through it” quietly replaced actually caring, in the work you’re actually doing right now, whatever that looks like these days?

➡ Nobody at the table tonight earned the meal — it was finished before anyone showed up. Where does that same kind of grace actually have permission to touch your work, and where have you kept it locked out?

➡ Isaiah pictures a world where people build houses and actually live in them, plant and actually eat what grows, nobody working just to hand the fruit of it to somebody else. Name one specific task, relationship, or practice where that’s currently not true for you — where the fruit of your work goes somewhere you don’t. What would it take to close that gap? (Isaiah 65:21-22)

➡ **EXTRA CREDIT:** Name one specific, ordinary task this week — nothing spiritual-sounding — you’re going to do differently because of “as for the Lord, not for men.” What would someone else have to see to know you really meant it?