

Desperate Faith

Glenn Packiam | November 21, 2021

What do we do when we come to the end of our rope?

Ruth 3:1-3 (NIV)

1 'One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for. 2 Now Boaz, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. 3 Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking.'

1. We need...committed friends.

Mark 2:1-5 (NIV)

1 'A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. 2 They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. 3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. 4 Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Ruth 3:7-9 (NIV)

7 'When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. 8 In the middle of the night something startled the man; he turned—and there was a woman lying at his feet! 9 "Who are you?" he asked. "I am your servant Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family."'

2. We need...a desperate faith.

The story of the Bible is the story of people coming to the end of the rope and desperately crying out to God!

Mark 10:46-52 (NIV)

46 'Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means "son of Timaeus"), was sitting by the roadside begging. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 48 Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 49 Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling

you.” 50 Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. 51 “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.” 52 “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.’

Ruth 3:10-11 (NIV)

10 ‘The Lord bless you, my daughter,’ he replied. “This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. 11 And now, my daughter, don’t be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character.’

3. We need...a gracious redeemer.

Ruth 3:18 (NIV)

18 ‘Then Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.” ’

Earlier we saw Ruth’s stubborn and steadfast love as a picture of Jesus. Here we see in Boaz the gracious love of Jesus!

Matthew 5:3 (Message)

3 “You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.”

“God’s address is at the end of your rope.” – Dallas Willard

Can we get messy this morning and seek the Lord with a desperate faith?