



DOES ANYTHING GOOD HAPPEN AFTER 2AM?

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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Sinclair Ferguson, *Faithful God: An Exposition of Ruth*, 2005.

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Head: Understanding the Bible

1) Read Ruth 3. What is Naomi's plan? Whose well-being is at the center of Naomi's plan? What's risky about Naomi's plan?

2) Read Genesis 2:18-25. Compare Adam and Boaz's reactions to a similar situation.

"Boaz...says to Ruth: 'You are exactly what I have been looking for; I am thrilled to have found you.'" (Ferguson, 90)

3) What does Ruth tell Boaz to do? Who is at the center of Ruth's plan?

4) How does Boaz respond? How is it an act of *hesed* for Ruth to tell Boaz to marry her?

5) Describe the character of both Boaz and Ruth in the midst of a tempting situation.

Heart: Using the Gospel on Our Affections

The language used in this chapter is not found in a Disney movie. It is tingling with sexual tension. To be uncovered is to be intimate and vulnerable with another human being. No longer are we in Eden where people lived naked and unashamed. This is life east of Eden, in the days of the judges, when women are abused. Nakedness is synonymous with being ashamed. Ruth's demand of Boaz to redeem her is asking him to give her and Naomi rest (Ruth 1:9, 3:1) and to cover their shame.

6) These words of rest, shame and redemption connect to the God's bigger story. What do you need to have rest in this world? How does shame affect our ability to experience God's rest? Can you experience God's rest as a single person, if it is 'not good' to be alone?

7) Jesus offers us rest and protection under the shadow of his wings. He covers us with the garment of marriage. Why does Jesus redeem us? Look long and hard at Jesus' vulnerability for us on the cross. What does Paul say in Ephesians 5:31-32 that marriage, as designed by God in Genesis 2, is about?

Hands: Applying the Gospel to Our Lives

"Eve was the one companion fully suited to Adam, who would turn the 'not good' of his being alone to the 'very good' of a new, covenant relationship in which he would discover a new depth what it meant to be the image of God, sharing now—as his triune Creator had done from all eternity—in a world of intimate fellowship with another who shared his nature." (Ferguson, 90)

8) Often, this passage is used to motivate us to be courageous and take risks in relationship like Ruth or to be willing to love sacrificially like Boaz. How does Jesus' death to pay to marry us make it possible for us to take risks and love sacrificially?

9) This is a passage about marriage. Ruth finds rest under the shadow of Boaz' wings. Is your marriage a relationship where you experience rest? Why or why not?

10) Not everyone is married. Ruth is a book for single people. This book not only shows how God meets the needs of his people through human relationships, but also demonstrates that human marriage is a picture of God's marriage relationship with his people. How does the book of Ruth help everyone see that marriage is a good thing, but should not be an ultimate thing? How Ruth an example for singles? How does God provide for single Naomi?