



Boaz: How the Gospel Changes Men

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Head: Understanding the Bible

“A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.”

~Proverbs 25:28

- 1) A person's first words in Hebrew stories tell us a lot about a person's character. What is the first word we hear from Boaz? What do we learn about him?
- 2) How does Boaz imitate his Heavenly Father in his actions throughout the book of Ruth?
- 3) Read Ruth 2:1. What words are used to describe Boaz? How do you see these things in Boaz' life?

Hayil—excellent, worthy

Gibbor—warrior, Hebrew hero

- 4) Read Proverbs 25:28. How essential is self-control to Boaz' character?

Heart: Using the Gospel on Our Affections

“The essential ingredient to biblical manhood is self-control...As men, we can fight the symptoms of a disquieted inner life—anger, lust, insecurity, anxiety, and the like. Such fights are necessary. Or we can wage war against the bunker out of which these enemies come: lack of self-control. ”

~ Thabiti Anyabwile

6) Boaz has been described by commentators as God’s law lived out in the flesh. He’s also been described as God’s covenant love with a face. Boaz gave Ruth and Naomi a face to experience God’s kindness. Yet, Boaz was still a sinner. Compare the actions of Boaz with the greater picture of law and love, Jesus Christ.

7) How did Jesus model self-control for us? How do we reap the benefits of Jesus’ self-control?

Jesus’s definition of manhood is every man’s true identity and calling—his birthright. It encompasses everything about who he is and every second of his life. . . . Manhood according to Jesus means a man lives knowing he’s being watched, and nothing matters more than to be in step with his Father in heaven.

~Carolyn Custis James

Hands: Applying the Gospel to Our Lives

“Self control is the ability to choose the important thing over the urgent thing. The important thing, biblically, is love for God and love for your neighbor. The urgent thing is to please yourself.”

~Tim Keller

8) Boaz is an older man who models the direction that grace takes men. What aspects of Boaz’ acts of faith challenge you?

9) Read Titus 2:1-2. List the character of older men. How do us younger men get there? What concrete steps need to be taken. How can we as a church help men be shaped by the gospel?

10) Take time to pray for the men.