

The Book of Ruth, Session 2

By Mike MacIntosh

Dorian and the muffler and the tailpipe are dragging, and this is all I can have because I'm going to school, you know, and we complain and all of a sudden the lines of bitterness start speaking our heart and our face. And people look at us and say, man, you look like you're baptizing lemon juice. Who wants to be around you? You're so bitter and uptight all the time and you're not enjoying life in reality. She didn't come back empty.

She came back full because she had somebody that loved her. And as long as you have somebody that loves you, you're a really wealthy person. And, you know, Solomon said it really in a great way. If a man wants to have friends, he must show himself to be friendly but haven't got any friends. Well, you've been friendly, very loving. People run. Hayford called out somebody's name here that you'd left your wallet, Yvette and standing back here listening to Frances Chan speak and this student walked at me and said, Did you drop your wallet?

Well, it's a girl's wallet, obviously. I said, no, I didn't. And I thought, oh, I wonder if he's going to do that wallet. Let's see what's in here. There's a love letter here to this guy. Well, let's read or mail. Not at what if this guy is just going to walk out of that wallet. First thing he does, he walked over and he set it down by the musicians table there and just left it there.

Honesty, character could have been tempting to use her ID and her credit cards and those hundred dollar bills that are in there now, they're not in there, are they? No. Sorry character so important to love people is so important. And to find out that life is not the fast lane, the sooner you learn that, the happier you're going to be. This world has nothing to offer to you. I look at my friends from D.C. talking.

I can remember Michael and Kevin and Toby staying at our house. And they came in to San Diego and they sang at a Christian high school. Thirty five students in the in the auditorium. They sang at another school. Fifty students in the auditorium. And now they make millions of dollars off of their platinum records and signed with Virgin Records. And they fill stadiums and and yet if it weren't for the gospel of Jesus Christ be in the heart, there'd be little punks, because once you get to the top, there's no place to go but down.

But if you have Jesus taking you to the top, there's no place to go but up. And if you try to do your life after Biola or during Biola without the power of God's word, you're going to be a real shallow person and you're going to be presumptuous like Naomi and you're going to miss some of the greatest assets. You have your friends. Are you three friends? Yeah. Put up with each

other, don't you? Yeah. I heard him over here singing, worshiping the Lord, lifting in their hands when one talked to me, the other two listened.

When the other one talked to me, the other two look and you could tell their friends, their friends. And so she misses something here. She misses that God has not dealt bitterly against her life has. But God has given her an asset. And I would like you just to maybe do an inventory before you go to bed tonight. And thank God, who are the people in my life that really care for me and love me. And I want to thank you for those people. And I don't want to be bitter and I don't want to complain about things because you've give me other humans that love me. I went out for Naomi, returned and root them all by to her daughter in law, went with her who returned from the country.

They became they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest. And there was a relative of Nemes, Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, the family of Elimelech, and his name was Boaz. Great wealth circle that word. Great wealth in the persons bible on your left side this morning. Great. Well, we know that about him. And the second thing we know about him, he's from Elimelech, her husband's family who had died.

This becomes somebody like Jesus in a way. He's got tremendous wealth, the riches of God in Christ Jesus. And he's a member of the family. And so she goes off and starts the work in his field. So the Ruth the mobile has said to Naomi, please let me go to the field. And Glean heads of grain after him in his sight, I may find favor. And she said to her, Go, my daughter. And then she left and went and gleaned in the field after the Reapers.

And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech, now known as those terms. She happened to circle the terms she happened in. The persons Bible is sitting behind you right now. Switch over in circle right there. Makes an interactive Bible study like working with the CD. It happened. Do things just happen here? They are in abject poverty and they have no money. And it says she just happened to go into this rich man's field who happen to be a relative in Philippians for nineteen. It tells us that. But my God, she'll supply all of your needs according to his riches and glory in Christ Jesus. And so she didn't just happen in Romans. It tells us that those that are led by the spirit of God are called the children of God.

And your life won't just happen if you let God lead your life. And she was led that day by the spirit to this relative's property. Behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem and he said to the Reapers, The Lord be with you. And they answered him, the lord bless you now, could you imagine working at a place like that where the owner of the boss walks in and said, the Lord be with you and everybody that worked there with you? A Burger King turned around and said, hey, the

Lord, bless you. Could you imagine working in a place where the guy that's in charge loves God and treats you as one of God's kids? That's kind of amazing thought, huh?

But many of you sitting here this morning are going to end up being extremely rich and wealthy. You're going to boats and cars and houses, and that's OK. If those things control you, it's not OK. But some of you are going to be very, very smart business women and very smart businessmen. And you're going to make investments and they're going to bring you back goodies and toys and you're going to prosper. Some of you would be professionals that without even doing business, your profession will pay you so much that you're going to be successful.

But if you let the success rule your life, you're missing life. And if you're missing life, you're missing people. And life is all about people. Living is about people. Bob Vernon, the fellow, I'm sure he's been here to speak before. He's the assistant chief of police under Daryl Gates in Los Angeles, spoke at a law enforcement banquet a couple of years ago. And I'd heard this story about him, how the LAPD is getting these bad raps, but they really have a strong chaplaincy.

And even though his assistant chief is also a chaplain and I'm sitting next to breakfast, I said, Bob, is this story true? And I told him this story about how people help each other. He says it's absolutely true. So he hadn't told it for a while and he told it that morning. This is a true story

happened in Los Angeles. There was a burglar trying to break in to this lady's house. She was a single woman and she woke up about 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning and heard some noise around the back of her house.

She looked out the curtain and here is this man. And ultimately he was on PCP and he really looked like a crazy man. He came up, started Jimmy in the window, and she yelled, Get out of my yard. I work for the Los Angeles Police Department. She was a dispatch lady, nine one one operator. And he's Jimmy in the window. And he starts swearing and cursing, using foul language and saying, well, he's going to do when he gets in the house. So she picks up the phone and dials nine one one. And the phone answered and says, you have reached the emergency service of the Los Angeles Police Department. All lines are busy. If you would just hold on the next available operator to help you. She said, oh, no.

And she tells it again.

You have reached the emergency service Los Angeles Department. All lines are busy. The next emergency personnel will help you. Please stand by. She can't wait. This guy is screaming and yelling, pounding on the on the side of the wall now. And he's going around to the kitchen door and he's Jimmy in the door. She grabs a phone book, she turns in the phone book and she finds a

Winchell's Donuts in her neighborhood and she calls and this kid answers. The phone said Winchell's donuts said, listen, I'm in trouble.

Is there a police officer in the donut shop right now? And she said when I asked her, happened to be four in here, right now, there's two police cars sitting right in there just drinking coffee and donuts. So it's quick. Give me one gets Gibson says, this is so-and-so. I'm a dispatcher says, well, Diane, this is Ray. You know, they were friends. And he said, What's the problem is that there's a guy kicking in my kitchen door right now. He's going to come in and rape me and kill me and rob my house. He says, And do you know that those two squad cars split from the donut shop, went over there, got the guy is coming in the back of the house, cuffed him, arrested and is in jail. The moral of the story, if you're ever in trouble, call lintels and you're going to get some help. Right. But many times help comes from a strange place.

It could come from you that you can be a person that can help somebody. That's one of the greatest things of being a Christian woman or Christian man is you get to help people and see lives change. And so Naomi is bitter. Ruth is beautiful. She goes by happenstance into this rich man's field who is related to her father in law. And this man has a great business going. He starts the day by saying to his people, the Lord bless you. And they say back the Lord bless you. And Boaz said to his servant, who is in charge of the Reapers, whose young woman is this? Whose young woman is this love at first sight. Remember, her name is Beauty. She's beautiful. And the

first thing and there's a big, big age gap here, too. And the word young woman comes up all the time.

The first thing he sees after he checks on the business is, wow, who's that over there? He wants to know right away. There's lots of women cleaning the fields, but who is this one? She stands out of the crowd. And that's the one you want to marry, is the one that stands out of the crowd. You want to marry the one. This is sort of blending in the crowd and is the most popular in the crowd.

But the one that stands out in your crowd, in your heart, because God has prepared that person for you and that's who you want to marry. And when you find that person, you will know that's the person you don't need to look for. Neon lights flashing. This is him. This is her. You don't need to wait for the bells and the guitars to go off. And the orca whales bring in all sorts of strange things. Oh, this is a lawyer in the middle of the night.

A man on a flaming hot pizza slice of your bedroom says it's him. You know, you'll just know. But wait, because God has a great plan and he wants to use you in his great plan. Look what happens here. So the servant who is in charge of the Reapers answered and said it is the young Moabite woman who came back with Neomi from the country of Moab. And she said, please let

me glean and gather after the Reapers among the sheaves. So she came and continued from morning till now, though, she rested a little in the house.

Otherwise, this is a hard worker. This lady is not only beautiful and she's not trying to manipulate our careers, meaning that some use their beauty to manipulate the men. And she doesn't want to work. She wants the men say, because you're so cute, I'm going to give you a bunch of free grain. You can go sit in the shade and drink lemonade. And he says from morning to sunset, she's out there working hard like everybody. She's got character. Every chapter you go on reading every line about this woman, she's beautiful. She's so stunning that every man looks at her, but she's got character.

King Solomon said a good name is rather to be had than riches and jewels. Don't sell your character for anything. Don't compromise your character for anyone. You keep your standards high and you keep them high for the glory of God and God's going to honor you. Don't ever let your guard down and let your character go because you only have one shot at life. And if you have a reputation of being a lousy person, an unpredictable person, a liar, a cheater, a lazy worker, a person that doesn't keep with a word, you're going to have a miserable life.

But if men look at you women as that's one of God's daughters and women, look at you men is that's one of God's sons. And you keep your standards where God would have them, you're going to find great peace in your life. So please, she's a hard working Boaz and Ruth. Now, here's this rich man going into his own fields and talking to the common laborer. And this is like Jesus coming down from heaven and talking to you and me. You will listen, my daughter. Will you not do not believe in another field. He's in love.

Don't go away and do not go from here. But stay close by my young women and let your eyes be on the field which they read and go after them. Have not. I commanded young men not to touch you and when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn. So she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground and said to him, Why have I found favor in your eyes that you should take notice of me since I am a foreigner?

And from Moab, same picture of Jesus dying for you. Why should he take notice of you and me? Why should he have taken nails in his hands and a spear in his side and a crown of thorns on his head for you? Why should if he had his back ripped wide open? With a whipping of thirty nine lashes for you, why did you take notice of you? Because he loves you. I have this beautiful granddaughter named Molly. She's got platinum hair. She's four years old. She's got huge blue eyes and her eyelashes go all the way across the gymnasium.

She's so cute. She has two modes go and sleep. I mean, she's off one wall walking upside down in the ceiling, running down, mowing people's yards. She's she's chasing dogs. She's everywhere. She's got so much energy. But when Molly starts to wind down and she's very petite, she comes with those little arms and those big eyelashes, those big blue eyes, and she looks up at you and sticks her little arms out and says, hold you, me, hold you, me.

And that's what God wants to do, hold you, me. He wants to pick you up and put you in his arms and just tell you how much he loves you. Today he has taken notice of you and he knows you're working hard here at school and he knows the difficulties you have here at school. He knows the outside pressures of the social life of school. He knows the Christian tension and the secular tension that's off this campus or even on this campus. But he wants you to realize he wants to pick you up and hold you me, and he wants to love you, just like Boaz is taking notice of this beautiful woman. But her character is so strong that she's not going to be seduced by this older man. She's not going to be seduced by his power. She's not going to be seduced by his money. She's not going to be seduced by his influence. And remember, she's very poor and she's got her character that she's keeping her eyes on serving her mother in law.

Ruth, we'll close with this. I know it's very hot. You've been a good audience. Listen to Frances myself. She fell on her face and Boaz answered and said, it has been fully reported to me all that

you have done for your mother in law since the death of your husband and how you have left your father and your mother in the land of your birth. And you've come to a people whom you did not know before the Lord repay your work and a full reward be given to you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.

Then she said, Let me find favor in your sight, my Lord, for you have comforted me and you've spoken kindly to your maid servant, though I am not like one of your maid servants. And Boaz said to her at mealtime, come here and eat of the bread and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar. So she sat beside the Reapers and he passed parch grain to her and she ate and was satisfied and kept some back. Now she has done what God has done for you.

She has come and humbled herself before him. And Boaz picks her up and says, Now come to my head table, come where I sit and eat from my table and how God is feeding you at this university. And you may not even know he's feeding you. He's saying dip into the bowl, just like all those twelve disciples dipping into the same bowl of Jesus Christ. You want to be grateful to God. You want to be gracious. You want your character to be a thankful character, and you want to be patient.

Because if it looks like God has dealt a harshness to you and a bitterness to you, in reality, he hasn't. He's got a greater plan. When my father and mother divorced and I grew up, I was a real hell raiser as a teenager and in my twenties, and I was always getting in trouble. And at a conference yesterday before I came here, I was reading a scripture to in a study and it was about NASA, who is a wicked king. He died. He was buried in his own garden, and his son Ammon came behind him and he was just as wicked as his father and followed in the way of his father. And then he died and was buried in his garden. And then Josiah was born as his grandson, Vanessa's grandson. And he said but he followed after his father, David, and I realized the wisdom of God. I was always hurt and always bitter and angry that I was the kid without the dad.

But I realize since my dad was a wife beater and a gambler and an alcoholic and a lazy kind of a guy that had he stayed in my life, I would never be on my way to heaven today. In God's wisdom, he allowed this tremendous tragedy of divorce to come because he would not stop drinking to my mother had to divorce him because she had four children to take care of and he was just a bad guy. And I realized that if NASA had continued being my dad, I'd never get the chance to be a Josiah, a person that would bring reformation, revival and help and encouragement to other people.

And so today, in closing, you're sitting here and you've got pain in your life and you've got memories. You're a young adult now and you've got memories from your childhood that could be pretty ugly and you to have setbacks even here on campus. And you think God has dealt

severely with me? Well, maybe it feels like he's dealt with you severely. But don't be presumptuous. When the whole thing pans out, you're going to realize that God loved you so much that he's allowed these things come into your life to make you a woman of character and a man of character, a person with principles and ethics and morals, not a person that goes to bed with anybody says let's go to bed, or person to say.

Ugly and drunk, they'll never know about it or person that pilfering, I was with a police officer one night that we got in trouble, we chased a car out of an AMPM store at 90 miles an hour, a Corvette with one man, two women in it. One was a blond because she was sitting up to the top and her hair was blown there, obviously drunk. We figured they just robbed the ampm. He was fishtailing down the street, smoke pouring out the tires.

We lit up the lights, sirens going. This guy makes a quick right turn to an industrial park. He picks up the radio, the officer I'm with and he calls for backup, but he forgets to tell where we are. And as he gets in the street at about 80, 90 miles an hour, the Corvette makes another turn. We make a turn and spin out in the gravel and he gains composure, gets back. And just as we floorboard it, the Corvette stops immediately.

We almost ran into it would have killed all three of the people. And he jumps out of the car, starts taking his left hand. And I remember looking over and seeing him taking his revolver around I grabbed for the shotgun and this guy the size of a great fullback from Biola, his huge he comes running out of the car at the police officer. Oh, this is it. Someone's going to die tonight. I knew it. And the women started coming out of the cars.

You stay in the car right there. Don't even get out of that car because I figure if they have guns or something, then there's going to be blood everywhere. And all of a sudden this man stops right in front of the police officer and he starts cursing at him, foul language. And the police officer doesn't cuff him, doesn't shoot him. I thought for sure this big football sized guy was just going to throw him on the ground and it was going to be all over.

And after about five minutes of this intense confrontation, we got back in the car, the Corvette drove off and we went and sat in the bank parking lot. The gentleman was so high and that car, it took about ten minutes for it just to come down. The guy did not remember that he called in. The worst thing you can do is not say where you are when you're in trouble. He had asked for backup. We were in trouble.

And everybody on the squad that night in that bad part of San Diego was looking for us. The radio, the microphone was laying on the floor connected, but he had dropped it. When we spun out the dispatch for ten or fifteen minutes, it kept calling our sign and asking where we were for help. Everybody was stuck. They figured we're dead by this time. And I didn't want to touch anything or say anything. And you could see the energy level down. And after about ten minutes, he turned to me and he said, I almost got us killed. Then I said, Yes, sir, you did. I had the shotgun. I thought if he was going to shoot you, I was going to have to shoot him and you almost got killed. But you're a rookie, and he's he's only been on his own for about a month. I said, but, you know, you'll learn from this.

But I want to tell you something. Hear the radio. They've been calling this for fifteen minutes, and that's your responsibility. So it calls them says ten for everything's OK. So his squad leader calls and says, meet me. It's about six cars, meet and see what happened. So he explains the whole deal on the way, driving away from then I said, who was that guy? Was that your brother? Was it a cousin? Was it your roommate? Was it your best friend? Who was that guy? And he said, well, that's the main problem. I don't know. I said, you let a guy rush you as if he was going to kill you, swear at you and make you look like an idiot in front of those women who are obviously drunk. And you didn't even cuff him or get his ID or put him up against the car. He said, well, honestly, I think that he said another police officer and I'm a rookie.

And if I were to arrest him or cause him trouble and I'm in trouble, nobody will come for me. I said, Do you really believe that you're in trouble? They're going to say they're not. That's not true. You're seeing too many cops, TV shows. So what you need to do, in my point of view, is tell your sergeant, because Jesus told one day about a centurion that came to him that had a six servant and he said, so I gave the cop the gospel and he said, I have a six servant, come help me. Jesus said, I'll go. And he said, no, just speak the word. I'm a man like authority like you. And so I said, tell your sergeant he can tell the lieutenant, the lieutenant and tell the captain, captain. Tell the commander, commander. Tell Assistant Chief, Assistant Chief and tell the chief or I can stop. That's why you have authority in your life. So at the end of the night, we pulled over at Qualcomm Stadium.

The sergeant was signing all of his paperwork. And I had my head down, said, do you want me to get out of the car? Are you going to tell him? I said, I can't tell him. I said, I'll get out of the car. You got to tell him. I can't tell him. The sergeant leans over without him seeing and winked at me, said, Son, anything unusual happen tonight on duty? Well, he had heard the whole thing. You can't hide from God either. He sees everything you're doing, son. Anything unusual happened in your life tonight? Well, Sarge, there was this and he told him the deal. Nobody said what I tell you about the gun last week. Yes, sir. So we drove back, signed out. I said, what's the gun? We'll. Well, just last week, he told us about being pure and having morals as a law enforcement officer.

So what's the gun? He said, well, you're a rookie and you're called to a 7-Eleven. There's been a robbery and you walk in and you're a guy that's been in the duty longer. And he says, take the paperwork. I'm going to look for evidence. And as you're writing out the paperwork, you look over there and say, hey, he just picked up a package of gum and stuck it in his pocket. Are you going to confront him or talk to him about it or let it go, you let it go the next week, you're on duty.

The same partner, you're called to a jewelry store and he says, hey, you take the paperwork. I don't look for evidence. And as you're doing the evidence, writing down the things, you look in areas and he's taking a Rolex watch and putting it in his pocket, you see it just accelerates a little bit. Like Jesus said, a little 11 leavens a hole up. Don't lose your character. You're a precious woman, your precious man.

And God has given you friends to keep you accountable and to love you and thank him for this today. Shall we stand and shall we pray? We thank you, God, for this great university. We thank you for all the people that have gone through this gymnasium and these classrooms ahead of us, we thank you for the many, many businesses and professionals and alumni that have trust funds and investments that helped fund this university. And we thank you for the great teachers, administration and staff that are committed to these students.

And I thank you for every one of these beautiful men and women that stand here on your ground. I saw their paper this morning, Lord of the Chimes, and it said that some of them are a little edgy about the homosexual bill will take away their funding. The Lord, the world doesn't control these men and women. You control them. And just like Ruth, you're going to take care of their education. And I pray for them. I pray for these men that you would let them make a commitment to you today, that they're not going to compromise character and they're going to be recognized in the business community as godly men just like Boaz, and that they're going to be gentle and kind to strangers and foreigners.

And I pray for these women that you would let the Sterling character of Jesus Christ shine through their hearts, that they are not going to compromise their character either, and they're not going to manipulate or use their beauty or their talents or their gifts to get what they want from weak men. So I pray that as we finish this book tomorrow, that over the evening and day that you'll be just chewing away at the hearts a little bit, Lord, and speaking to him. And the character would really be something they want to work on and that you would use them in the bigger picture. And for any that are suffering today with any setbacks or hurt, they know that you have given them assets and some of those assets are standing right beside them. We thank you for our friends and our family in Jesus name. Amen.

[End of Recording].