



THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting

November 10

Our Next Gospel Meeting

October 6-11

Weekly Zoom Bible Study

Wednesday at 2 pm

Times of Service

Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM

(Immediately followed by a short worship service)

First Friday of Month

Singing

September 6

Address and Contact

University Heights Church of Christ

445 Columbia Ave., Lexington,
KY 40508

(859) 255-6257

www.uheightschurch.com

“A WORTHY MAN”

Naomi and Ruth made their way to Bethlehem. More than 10 years had passed since Naomi, her husband, and her sons had left for Moab. Her return caused a stir, especially among the women. She told them of her heartbreaking losses and introduced them to Ruth. It was the beginning of the barley harvest when they returned and settled in. (1:19-22)

How were Naomi and Ruth supposed to survive? They owned no fields for crops and had no money to purchase them. As Jesus would say centuries later, “The poor you always have with you.” (John 12:8a) God knew this would be the case and built provision for helping them into the Mosaic Law. Leviticus 19:9-10 says, “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after the harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.”

Boaz, a relative of Elimelech (Naomi’s husband), enters the narrative at this point. He is described as “a worthy man.” The word for “worthy” can speak of moral worth, valiancy, or material wealth. Boaz will show himself to be a man of means and influence. He will also prove to be a good and decent man. I believe moral goodness is the best understanding of “worthy” in this passage. He uses the same word to describe Ruth in 3:11 and in the same way.

The first words we see from Boaz give an indication of his character. He greeted the reapers of his field with a hearty, “The Lord be with you!” (2:4) Though the period of the judges was a

Members Needing Our Prayers

Julie Patton, Deremia Osbourne, Ralph Fox, Jill Harrison, Joyce Bolton, Rick Small, Benny and Arlena Poynter, Gary Brown, Janett Brundige, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayer

Micah Genton, Doris Baker, Stuart Goodpasture, Jodi Harrison, Bob Brundige, Charlie Ford, Rose Curtis, Josh McKibben, Phyllis Harmon, Maurice Baker, Jeff Padgett, John Thompson, Georgia Patton, Glenda Miller, Patty Hill, Janice Parsons, Mark Nickles, Paul and Marrian Lyda

To Our Guests

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very dark time in Israel's history, Boaz reminds us that good and godly people can exist even in the worst times. Indeed, that is often when they seem to shine the brightest.

Boaz did not recognize Ruth and asked questions about her. He was told that she was the Moabite woman who had returned with Naomi. This would connect her to his family. He was impressed to learn that she had asked permission before entering the field and had been hard at work with only a brief rest. (2:5-7)

Though God had made provision for the poor, that doesn't mean that his people would be happy about it or even obey his instruction. Boaz approached Ruth and said, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn." (2:8-9) Boaz was very graciously offering both provision and protection. He intended to give her more than she needed and from the best he had available. (2:15-16)

Boaz was a worthy man, indeed. What a blessing to have a relative like this! Let us strive to emulate his kindness and generosity within our families. Adam Litmer

| Elders | Deacons | Evangelist |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Troy Antle | Richard Brundige | Adam Litmer |
| David Collins | Adam Daniels | |
| Adam Litmer | Marcus Lake | |
| | Frank Patton | |
| | Jamie Powell | |
| | Pat Seabolt | |
| | James Weatherholt | |

