

Sermon Discussion Questions | July 2, 2017

The Redemptive Power of Hospitality

Ruth 2:4-14

1. Pastor Tom began his message by providing a “Degrees of Niceness” test. Take a moment and reflect/share where you found yourself on the scale. What led you to rate your “niceness” in that way? (This is not meant to embarrass anyone, but would be good for people to open up about where they find themselves. It’s a growth opportunity.)
2. Over the last few weeks of looking at the book of Ruth, we’ve seen the struggles of the various characters as well as God’s kindness toward them. Which of the characters have you identified with most? Why?
3. Pastor Tom reminded us of the change in Ruth’s view of herself as a servant. He pointed out that the change was in large part connected to Boaz offering her hospitality. But just what is hospitality? How would you define it? How was it defined in the message?
4. Hospitality is kindness in action. It’s a friendly and generous reception of guests and strangers. Pastor Tom also pointed out, hospitality is a call for all of us. Politeness isn’t enough, we’re all to strive to be the nicest, most hospitable people we can be. How does this strike you? Encouraging? Tough to accept? Take a moment to read the scriptures from this morning and discuss your thoughts: Romans 12:13, 1 Peter 4:8-9, Hebrews 13:1-2.
5. If hospitality can and should be a redemptive, transformative act, what does that look like? Pastor Tom mentioned five things hospitality should be. It is provided for the stranger and foreigner. It takes the initiative (it’s proactive), it is personal, it doesn’t hold back/it is generous. Finally, hospitality is more about the heart behind it than the extravagance of the gesture. Which of these resonates most with you? Which sounds like the most challenging? Why?
6. God is asking all of us to be hospitable. We all have people we can be kind and nice to, people that are in need of us to reach out. God is asking us all to look at our neighbors, co-workers, family, friends and others around us and be hospitable. What are some ways God may be calling you to reach out? Who in your life may God be calling you to invite to your home to have dinner? As you close, take a moment to think about your action step from the message, what God may be calling you to do and pray for each other.