<u>Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional</u> First Congregational Church of Woodstock Pastor Doug Warren March 5, 2023

Morning Worship Service:

Ruth 2:1-3

Foreshadowing God's Provision

1. God Provides a Worthy Kinsman (1).

2. God Provides a Means for Work & Sustenance (2).

3. God Directs Ruth to Her Relative's Field (3).

Conclusion: The first three verses of this second chapter open the door just a crack so that we might see the light dawning on all the gloominess that has been so difficult for Naomi and Ruth. This foreshadowing with the introduction of Boaz and Ruth finding her way to his fields helps us to begin to see how God is going to refill Naomi's emptiness and transform her bitterness into blessing. But it is also a wonderful reminder of God's faithfulness with His people. Not only does He care about each one of us individually, but He is providentially overseeing all of us together in ways that will marvelously display His matchless glory.

Leviticus 19:1-9

And *the Lord spoke to Moses, saying*, ² "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, *You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy*. ³ Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: *I am the Lord your God*. ⁴ Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves any gods of cast metal: *I am the Lord your God*. ⁵ "When you offer a sacrifice of peace offerings to the Lord, *you shall offer it so that you may be accepted*. ⁶ It shall be eaten the same day you offer it or on the day after, and anything left over until the third day shall be burned up with fire. ⁷ If it is eaten at all on the third day, it is tainted; it will not be accepted, ⁸ and everyone who eats it shall bear his iniquity, because he has profaned what is holy to the Lord, *you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest*.

Second Thessalonians 3:6-12

"Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is *walking in idleness* and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, *that we might not be a burden to any of you*. ⁹ It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: *If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat*. ¹¹ For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. ¹² Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living."

Psalm 135:5-6

For I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. *Whatever the Lord pleases, He does,* in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.

Matthew 10:26-33

²⁶ "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. ²⁸ And *do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell*. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Fear not, therefore; *you are of more value than many sparrows*. ³² So everyone who acknowledges me before men, *I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven*, ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.