

Series: Ruth

Message: God's Will for Your Life

Speaker: Jay Haugh

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- What is the difference between God's sovereign will and His moral will?
- What questions or decisions are before you right now that you are seeking guidance for?

The future can be unknown and scary. These five principles can help determine God's will.

HOSPITALITY

1. Cling to God's Character

- What is your favorite possession? Why is it your favorite? What do you do to take care of it?
- Do you believe that God loves and values you more than anything you love on earth? Why does He have such a love for us? What does He do to take care of us?
- **Read Leviticus 19:9-10; 23:22 and Deuteronomy 24:19-22**
- Describe the Old Testament law pertaining to land owners and how this law affected Ruth's right to glean. What do these laws tell us about God's heart for the poor, foreigners, and widows?



INTENTIONALITY

2. Be Faithful in Areas You Can Control

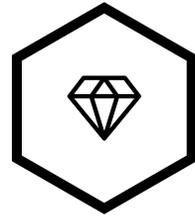
- **Read Ruth 2:2.** Naomi and Ruth are in a place where they do not have anyone to provide for them. Instead of waiting for someone to help them, Ruth takes the lead and seeks out food for them. Ruth can't control everything, but she can control some things. Share your perspective about what you can control vs what God controls.
- Jay shared how we need to be faithful with the little things serving where God has put us. This teaching is also found in the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30. Reflect and share about some areas where you sense the Lord prodding you to a greater level of action and faithfulness.
- We all want God's provision and blessing, but we cannot neglect obedience. When you consider what you have been given, are you being faithful with it to the level the Lord desires?



EXCELLENCE

3. Do Everything You Can Do

- **Read Ruth 2:7**
- Ruth is an example of how we're called to follow God. Following after God is not always going to be easy. It will require work. What does working for God look like in your life?
- Ruth is in a situation where she has to work for both her and Naomi. If she does not work, they do not eat. A situation like this could very easily make someone bitter, yet we see that Ruth is polite. "*Please let me glean and gather.*" Encourage and help one another by sharing what you do to keep a godly character in difficult times/situations.
- Jay made the comment that "God doesn't steer parked cars." Do you feel stagnant or parked in your walk with God? If so, what steps can you take to get the car in drive?
- As you seek to move forward, what comfort do you take from the statement: "God punishes and disciplines us for right and wrong decisions, not right or left decisions."



ENGAGING THE SCRIPTURES

4. Be Faithful and Don't Grow Weary

- **Read Galatians 6:9; 1 Peter 1:6-7; James 1:2-4; Hebrews 12:5-10,14**
- How do these passages speak to what is happening in the life of Naomi and Ruth?
- How do these passages put wind in your sails that may feel tattered and torn?
- Being loved by God also means being disciplined by God. How has adversity brought you into a deeper understanding of God's character?
- These passages speak to the value of trials/suffering. Do you give God thanks for these things?



CELEBRATION

5. Your Faithfulness Today Will Open Doors Tomorrow

- **Read Ruth 2:3**
- We see in verse 3 the phrase "as it turned out" or just so "happened." Do you believe that things "just happen" in the life of the believer? Why or why not?
- Have you heard of the word *Godincidence*? It is meant to be a play on the word coincidence. However, it is different because where a coincidence does not have a cause, a Godincidence does have a cause: God. What Godincidences do we see thus far in Ruth's life?
- Share about a Godincidence you have experienced in your life.

