



SERMON CHEAT SHEET

A WALK IN THE DARK | Ruth 2

FAITH IN THE UNSEEN

The Beginning of a New Journey

Ruth and Naomi find themselves in a tough spot, feeling lost and vulnerable after significant losses. Their story begins in despair, yet it's a story about stepping into the unknown, highlighting the importance of taking that first step in the dark. Ruth chooses to go gleaning in the fields, despite their dire circumstances. Sometimes, we think we need clarity and a grand plan before we move, but Ruth's action shows us that taking a simple step of faith can lead to unexpected provisions. What little step might you need to take today?

A Testament of Kindness

In the fields, Ruth encounters Boaz, a man of kindness and integrity, who sees her efforts and extends grace in a challenging time. As Boaz states in Ruth 2:12, *'May the Lord repay you for what you have done,'* we see how our actions can speak volumes to those around us. Boaz's kindness revolutionizes Ruth's day and ignites a chain reaction of blessings. Imagine being that person who goes above and beyond just by showing kindness to someone struggling. Think about a time you received unexpected kindness, how did it affect you? This is a call for us to be those conduits of hope and kindness in others' lives.

The Power of Integrity

Ruth's dedication to Naomi and her work ethic portray her character. Boaz, learning about her loyalty, sees her true worth despite societal prejudices against her as a Moabite. **Our integrity and character shine brightest not in easy times but often through trials and struggles.** In Colossians 3:23, we're reminded, *'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.'* It's during challenging times that we build our reputations, not just in the eyes of others but within ourselves. Let that inspire you to act with integrity, showing your true character through every interaction.

God's Unseen Providence

As Ruth starts gleaning in Boaz's field, little does she know that God's unseen hand is orchestrating her story toward redemption. This theme of divine providence reminds us that God is actively working in our lives, even when we can't see it. Romans 8:28 assures us, *'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.'* **We may face dark seasons, but understand that God is weaving a tapestry of redemption behind the scenes.** When things appear bleak, we have to trust in His divine purpose and timing. What is an area in your life today where you need to trust God's providence?

The Cost of Commitment

Ruth's commitment to Naomi and her willingness to step into Boaz's world highlights the theme of sacrificial love. Her decisions bring not just survival but also the promise of future restoration for herself and Naomi. This echoes the essence of John 15:13, *'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.'* Each step they took was a step toward constructing a new future filled with hope, costly but worth it.

LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK

- Show a small act of kindness to a stranger or someone in your community who might be struggling.
- Practice integrity in a situation where it would be easy to cut corners or rationalize poor choices, stand firm in doing what's right.
- Be open to recognizing how God might be working behind the scenes in your life and share that revelation with someone else.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray for the courage to take the first steps in an area of your life where you feel lost or uncertain.
- Ask God for insight into how you can be a light for someone walking through their dark season.
- Pray for opportunities to show kindness this week, and for the spirit to recognize them when they arise.
- Lift up those in your community who are struggling, that God would provide for their needs and show them His love.