

Sunday Equipping Class: The Gospel in the Ordinary *Vocation as Provision – Ruth*

Last Week: Vocation as Calling

This week: Vocation as Provision

Luke 12:22-32

And He said to His disciples, “For this reason I tell you, do not worry about your life, as to what you are to eat; nor for your body, as to what you are to wear. For life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. Consider the ravens, that they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds! And which of you by worrying can add a day to his life’s span? Therefore if you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about the other things? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither labor nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you? You of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For all these things are what the nations of the world eagerly seek; and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek His kingdom, and these things will be provided to you. Do not be afraid, little flock, because your Father has chosen to give you the kingdom.

Matthew 25:35-40

For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’ Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You as a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of Mine, you did it for Me.’

God cares for His people and is always at work to provide for them. Therefore, when we provide for our family or our neighbor, we are doing God’s work.

Who are the people you feel responsible for? Who has God called you to provide for?

4 Pictures of Provision in Ruth

1) Ruth provides for Naomi by meeting her _____ and _____ needs (Ruth 1)

Romans 12:15

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

2) Ruth, Boaz, and countless others work together to provide by meeting the _____ needs of their family (Ruth 2-3)

1 Timothy 5:8

But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

3) Boaz Provides for the _____ and the _____ (Ruth 2:1-16)

Leviticus 23:22

“When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the Lord your God.”

4) God Provides for His _____ (Ruth 4:13-22)

Luke 12:22-32

Testimony: Sabina Parks

Closing

Providing is not always easy and can often require sacrifice. How do we find a way to provide even when it's hard or counter-intuitive?

Romans 8:31-32

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?