

“Getting Romance Right”

Book of Ruth series, 2.18.24

Pastor Jason Strickling

Instead of focusing on what you want to **get** from someone, focus on what you want to **give** and who you want to **be**.



You don't just attract what you **want**. You tend to attract what you **are**.

You don't build a life of **righteousness** on a foundation of **sin**.

4 signs of a “righteous” romance:

1) Seeking **character**.

At this, [Ruth] bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked [Boaz], “Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?” Boaz replied, “I’ve been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before.”

Ruth 2:10-11

2) Exploring **connection**.

At mealtime Boaz said to [Ruth], “Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar.” When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over.

Ruth 2:14

3) Showing **consideration**.

As [Ruth] got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, “Let her gather among the sheaves and don’t reprimand her. Even pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don’t rebuke her.” So, Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah.

Ruth 2:15-17

4) Receiving **confirmation**.

[Naomi] asked [Ruth], “Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you! He is one of our guardian-redeemers.”

Ruth 2:19-20

Discussion questions

1. What's the best piece of relationship advice you've received?
2. Which part of this message was most impactful for you and why? Is there anything you want to learn more about?
3. Read Ruth 2:10-11. Boaz noticed Ruth's character. What qualities do you think someone would see in you?
4. Who are some trustworthy people in your life? How do they influence the way you act and live?
5. Review the four signs of a "righteous" romance. Talk about the sign that stood out to you the most. What made it noteworthy or important to you?
6. Is there anything you need to change in your friendships or relationships to honor God better? Share about this change and talk about ways the group can support and encourage you.
7. Find one way to invest in a friendship or your relationship this week.
8. Consider how you could love others by serving on the weekend or with a local mission partner.
9. Prayer for the week: *Father, you know us better than anyone else. We want to honor you in every area of our lives, including our relationships. Please guide us and show us where we can make changes to better reflect who you are. Thank you for redeeming us and calling us yours. In Jesus' name, amen.*