I Believe; Ruth 3:6-9

1. At Your Feet
   1. The phrase “at your feet” is symbolic for a subservient attitude
   2. Ruth 3:6–9 (ESV) 6 So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her. 7 And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down. 8 At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! 9 He said, “Who are you?” And she answered, “I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer.”
   3. Ruth laid down at the foot of Boaz, a symbol for the giving of herself to Boaz (in marriage)
   4. In the same way, we lay ourselves down at the feet of Jesus
2. Our True Identity
   1. We completely give ourselves to Jesus
      1. We give up what we desire and give ourselves over to His commands
      2. In doing so we accept what Jesus says about us
      3. We become a new creature
      4. Galatians 2:20 (ESV) 20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
   2. Our true identity emerges when we stop living for ourselves and start living for Jesus
      1. We were born to be Children of God
      2. Psalm 139:13–16 (ESV) 13 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.
      3. Before you were ever conceived God had a plan for you, an intimate knowledge of you, your identity
   3. The world has told you that you can be whoever you want to be – you can ‘identify’ as someone that you are not
      1. We get so mixed up trying to find our own identity
      2. People have made thousands of dollars writing books to help you ‘find yourself’
      3. We were never really lost; God has always known who we are
      4. 1 Peter 2:9a (ESV) 9a But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession,
      5. Chosen to be His priesthood, set apart for a divine purpose, belonging to a loving, living God who desires to be with us for eternity
      6. This is our identity – do you believe that?
   4. We must know our true identity to understand our true mission
3. Our True Mission
   1. Our true mission is found in the second part of 1 Peter 2:9 – “that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light”
      1. God’s mission for us is to tell others about Him and His love for mankind
      2. 2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV) 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.
      3. Ephesians 2:10 (ESV) 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
   2. All the people in Jerusalem (on the day of Pentecost) were listening to the Apostles speak about the ‘mighty works of God’
      1. The Apostles could not help it, they had to talk about the mighty works of God
      2. Acts 4:19–20 (ESV) 19 But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, 20 for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”
      3. Jeremiah 20:9 (ESV) 9 If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,” there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.
      4. Is the Gospel a ‘burning fire shut up in my (our) bones’?
      5. Are we ‘weary of holding it in’?
   3. Our true mission is to share the Gospel with those around us, and because our True identity is in Jesus, we also share our lives with them
   4. We give ourselves to God and to others – Do you believe that?
4. Our True Cost
   1. There is a cost
   2. We must lay ourselves down at Jesus’ feet
      1. Ruth lay herself down at Boaz’s feet because he was the kinsman redeemer
      2. We lay ourselves down at Jesus feet because He is the Redeemer
      3. Ruth gave herself to Boaz in marriage
      4. We, the church, are the Bride of Christ
      5. “It is no long I who live, but Christ who live in me,” (Galatians 2:20 in part)
   3. In giving up the identity we thought we had, we renounce the world and all that is in it
      1. Luke 14:33 (ESV) 33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.
      2. Our concern changes from what we have to what can we do for those around us (both physically and spiritually)
      3. All that God has given us (and that is everything we have) should be used in service to Him, in His kingdom
   4. Our mindset has to change from selfishness to selflessness – Do you believe that?
5. You Say
   1. You say we find our Identity in You (Christ)
   2. You say we find our mission in You (Christ)
   3. You say we belong to you… I believe!