

## WELCOME

Good morning church! I'm Chris Martin, and I'm one of the pastors here, and it truly is my pleasure to open up God's Word with you this morning.

And that's what we're going to do, so, if you've got your Bibles, and I hope you do, please open them up to Ruth chapter 3. That's where we're going to be. Ruth 3. We want every person to have a hand on their Bible, so if you don't have one, grab one of the hard-backed black one under every chair. You can open your phone or tablet. Ruth 3.

If you open a black one from under your chair, Ruth 3 is on [page 223](#).

## INTRODUCTION

Well, today we're going to make it all the way through Ruth chapter 3. And today is the day where we finally get to the juicy stuff. The romance between Ruth and Boaz finally buds.

- This is like the Jim and Pam thing...any Office fans?
- Or, this is like Ross and Rachel...no?
- This is Kevin and Winnie.
- Luke and Lorelai
- Zach and Kelly. Saved by the Bell? Anyone?

Well, today the love story blossoms.

- And sometimes we do sermons for married people,
- and sometimes we do sermons for single people,

and today, really, this one is for both.

- If you're single in here, I hope this text will help instruct you on the kind of person you want to become.
- And if you're married in here, I hope this text will remind you of why you got into this whole marriage thing, and perhaps call you back to become the person you vowed to be.

## **CATCH UP**

Now, let me catch us up through the first two chapters.

A man named Elimelech and his wife, Naomi take their two sons and move to Moab to avoid a famine.

- This was an unwise move because the Moabites are really
- a sketchy,
- pagan people,
- and Elimelech moves his family
- away from the people of God,
- and away from the presence of God.

**And we said that it's nearly impossible to experience the blessing of God when you are away from the people of God.** This is why being a part of a Gospel-centered church is so important!

So, they flee, but death seems to follow them, cause Elimelech dies, and then both sons die, but not after they take wives from among the Moabites, again, another thing prohibited by God.

- So, now Naomi is left with two, pagan daughters-in-law.
- One returns to her home and we never hear from her again.
- But the other,

- named Ruth,
- clings to Naomi,
- and wants to go to Bethlehem,
- to worship Yahweh.

So, they head back from Moab to Bethlehem. And when they arrive, Ruth decides she needs a job to provide for her mother-in-law.

What is Naomi doing during the days? Who knows?

- Watching soaps.
- Chain smoking.
- Just hanging out in a moo-moo and nasty slippers.
- She's a bitter old woman.
- And that's not what I'm calling her...
- that's what she calls herself!

So, God providentially leads Ruth to a field to work in, that belongs to a relative of Naomi's named Boaz, and Boaz is unbelievably generous with her.

- He lets her glean in his field.
- He protects her from other men.
- He gives her more than she should have received.
- He is incredibly generous and hospitable toward her,
- despite the vast chasm between them in terms of social status.

So, the scene has been set for a budding romance, if you were an original reader, you're just waiting for these two to finally get together.

## TRANSITION

And today, it's gonna happen. But just not in the way we might think. And Ruth chapter 3 is the kind of chapter that makes me almost giddy to preach, because these are the kinds of chapters in the Bible that you read and say, *"What? That's in the Bible?"*

Yep. This one's fun. Ruth 3, verse 1.

## RUTH 3:1

[1] Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you?"

## EXPLAIN: MAKE A MOVE

So, it seems that 6 to 8 weeks have passed since the end of chapter 2, as now both the barley and wheat had been harvested, and now begins the threshing of the wheat.

And we might speculate that Naomi had hoped Boaz would take the initiative in pursuing a relationship with Ruth.

- But obviously he wasn't making any moves...
- we'll find out why later in this chapter,
- so, as Ruth's mother-in-law,
- Naomi took it upon herself to get the ball rolling.<sup>1</sup>
- The is the origin of the all-up-in-your-business mother-in-law.
- Anybody got one of them? OK.

And when it says should I not seek rest for you, she means the rest found in having a husband and home. Momma is about to play matchmaker.

## RUTH 3:2

[2] Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you were? See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.

### EXPLAIN: RELATIVE

Now, once again, the fact that Boaz is their relative doesn't make this some sort of

- backwoods Kentucky,
- if-you-hear-banjoes-run,
- sort of, marrying your cousin, thing.

I know it doesn't make sense in our context, but this was the social norm of the day.

### EXPLAIN: WINNOWING

Now, I explained gleaning a few weeks ago. Let me explain winnowing. Winnowing was the next step in the process after the grain had been harvested.

- You'd throw the grain up into the air,
- allowing the wind to blow away the worthless parts,
- and you'd keep what fell.

And the threshing floor itself was usually located outside town in a place where the wind could be used to advantage.<sup>2</sup>

## APPLICATION: WORK

But I want to point something out here in verse 2 that I think is important when it comes to relationships. Both Ruth and Boaz **SLIDE** WORK. You see this?

- Ruth has been working in Boaz's field for the last couple months.
- In fact, back in chapter 2, Boaz's foreman commends her for working all day with only a short break,
- and then last week Michael told us that Ruth gleaned an Ephah of barley.
- That's 22 liters...or almost 50 pounds.
- Then she hauls that back to town.
- Yo, Ruth's got to be yoked up!
- She must cross-fit or something!

And now we see Boaz...

- he's the wealthy land-owner,
- but he doesn't play the part of trust fund,
- let-my-affairs-run-themselves,
- kind of guy.
- He's involved in the work.
- He knows the workers and the workers love him.
- And now, he's even directly involved in the winnowing.

I think this is all a sign that an important preparation before you pursue a romantic relationship is to develop a hard work ethic. In whatever field you are in, you prep by being a hard worker.

Ladies, don't just wait to get married off. No! You get to work.

- Maryse and I met in college,
- and she was studying to become an elementary teacher.
- And she taught for years
- before she started staying home to raise Harper.

And gents, as a friend of mine says so bluntly: it's time to get out of  
momma's basement.

- You gotta get off the couch,
- ditch the video games,
- and get a job.
- You wonder why you can't find a girl?
- Maybe you should ask yourself:
- if you were God,
- would you trust you with one of his daughters?
- If you can't handle work,
- man, go back to Call of Duty
- you're not ready for a relationship!<sup>3</sup>

Do you realize that in the Garden, Genesis 2,

- before God gives Adam his girl...
- before he gets the relationship,
- God gives him a job to do?

**God give him work to do BEFORE he gives him a woman to love.**

Don't miss this!

## TRANSITION

Both Ruth and Boaz are hard workers. They're getting their lives together BEFORE they engage in a romantic relationship. Verse 3:

### RUTH 3:3

[3] Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.

## EXPLAIN

So, Naomi begins to unveil her plan.

- Ruth's poor.
- She's been laboring in the fields for months.
- Boaz hasn't exactly seen her at her best.
- She's probably been in messy clothes,
- all pitted out,
- smelling something fierce.

So, Naomi says,

- *"Get you a shower,*
- *Spray on some perfume,*
- *and put on a clean set of clothes."*

And listen, this isn't a bad thing, ok!

## APPLICATION: DATING

Married people: at some point...you used to care! Right? Gosh, I would lose my mind trying to get myself looking right to impress Maryse.

- Best American Eagle button-up.
- CLEAN pants.
- I would drown myself in cologne.
- I wanted you to smell me coming!
- I was trying to impress her on every level.
- I was on my game.

And I doubt I need to address the singles and dating people in here today on this, because you know this. You're in the game.

But to my married friends...both men and women...we gotta keep dating our spouses.

Guys:

- plan a date.
- Take her out.
- Buy her flowers.
- Surprise her with a weekend away.

I mean, let's get back on our game.

- It don't even have to cost that much:
- a glass of 2-buck-chuck and a fireplace will do wonders!

And yes, I did confess that I fell asleep on the couch during my last date...so, this is for me as well.

Gals:

- listen, sometimes you gotta ditch the yoga pants.
- I know they're comfortable.
- But get fancy every now and then.
- Get you a wedge.
- Put on some lipstick.
- Do whatever it is you do in the bathroom
- when you're getting ready...
- normally it includes all kinds of sandblasting and power tools!
- Hold on to his arm as you walk.
- Make him feel strong.
- Make him feel like the man.

These are good things!

## **EXPLAIN: THE PARTY**

And also, the advice to wait until Boaz is finished eating and drinking. What's that all about? Well, I think we have to consider the context.

Remember, the famine has been going for the last 10+ years. And the winnowing would have been like pay day. But, like the first pay day in a decade!

- They would have been working hard all day,
- and then there would have been a feast,
- and then the men would have slept out with the grain
- to protect it from robbers,
- but also, it just would have been the end of a long celebration.

And yes, they are eating good food, and they're drinking good wine (or grape juice if you are a Baptist).

But I think Naomi just means,

- *“hey, give Boaz the time to celebrate this occasion.”*
- This isn't the time for Ruth to bust in,
- “Hey Boaz, we need to talk about our relationship!”
- No, no DTR right now!
- Ok, let your boy have some pizza and wings with his boys.

That's wisdom right there. Verse 4. Here's where it gets sketchy!

### **RUTH 3:4**

[4] But when he lies down, observe the place where he lies. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do.”

Ok, what? Uncover his feet, lie down there, and he will tell you what to do? I bet he will! This is in the Bible people!

I'm trying to get Maryse to memorize this as her life verse...but whatever!

This, I think, is where Naomi's advice goes a bit shady. You see, there is great danger in what Naomi tells Ruth to do.

- This was a blue-collar work party,
- with food, drink, and money to spend...
- and frankly, prostitution was common.

Naomi's advice to Ruth is questionable at best, because it really puts Ruth in a very dangerous and vulnerable place.

- What if Boaz doesn't recognize her?
- What if he thinks she is a common prostitute?
- What if Boaz DOES recognize her,
- and takes advantage of her?

Listen, I have a daughter, and this is not the advice I'll be giving her.

Verse 5:

### **RUTH 3:5-6**

[5] And she replied, "All that you say I will do."

[6] So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her.

### **EXPLAIN: NAOMI'S ADVICE**

So, Ruth obeys what Naomi says to do. Now, the question is: SHOULD she or should she NOT have taken Naomi's advice?

Well, scholars are kinda split on this one. Some say that Naomi must have so trusted the providence of God, and that he revealed this plan to her. I'm not so sure I agree with that, simply because of her past advice to her kids.

- First, she let her sons marry pagan wives.
- Second, she tells her daughters-in-law to go back home
- to worship their pagan gods...

You see,

- I think this is just plain bad advice from Naomi,
- and I frankly don't think it's wise for Ruth to heed this advice,
- but I do want to give Ruth a pass,
- as she is probably unfamiliar with the customs of this culture,
- and is instead, trusting her mother-in-law,
- albeit, in a questionable situation.

### **APPLICATION: GRACE**

But the point I want us to consider here is this: life is often like this.

- You may have good intentions,
- you may not know what to do,
- you may go to someone you trust for advice,
- and the advice might work out...
- or it may NOT!

Sometimes we accidentally, or sometimes intentionally, make bad decisions.

I don't think Ruth and Naomi are making wise relationship moves here. But God is gracious.

- You see, even when we sin,
- or make mistakes,
- or take bad advice,
- God is gracious!
- God can even redeem our bad decisions when it comes to romantic relationships.
- Anyone else need to say Hallelujah to that one?

Now, this is not giving us permission to make bad relationship decisions.

But it does mean that **God is willing and able to take our mistakes, AND EVEN OUR SINS, and use them for his glory and our good.**

Praise God! Verse 7.

### **RUTH 3:7**

**[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.**

### **EXPLAIN: IS BOAZ DRUNK?**

Now, although Boaz's drinking here probably included an alcoholic beverage, our passage makes no mention whatsoever of him getting drunk or of engaging in actions that he would not have done sober.

When it says that his heart was merry, it is likely in reference to both the contentment of the harvest and payday they experienced, but also the contentment of a good food and drink.

And recall what I said earlier, but Boaz ends up sleeping on the grain, and after he's fallen asleep, Ruth makes her move. Verse 8:

### **RUTH 3:8**

**[8] At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet!**

He was startled...you think?

Gals, I do not suggest you do this.

- Throw out whatever character a man has:
- if he is fat and happy,
- and a younger attractive woman jumps in his bed and says
- “tell me what to do,”
- I just don’t think it will end well.

And Guys, listen, if you do this...

- sneak into some girl’s apartment
- and lay in her bed...
- you will go to jail.

Verse 9.

### **RUTH 3:9**

[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.”

### **EXPLAIN: WHO ARE YOU?**

**Who are you?** That’s the right question.

And remember, this is a theme through the book. Who is Ruth? This is the question. Who is she?

Well, Ruth’s answer is telling. Unlike the field foreman in chapter 2:

- she does not introduce herself as “the Moabitess,”
- nor as “Naomi’s daughter-in-law”.
- Nor is she the widow of Mahlon.
- She’s not even the poor girl who’s been gleaning in his fields.

- She is Ruth!

And that's the second thing I want to point out. Before you engage in a romantic relationship, you should be secure in your **SLIDE** IDENTITY.

Notice that she says she is his servant. In the English we lose something here. This is a different Hebrew word for servant than we saw in chapter 2 when she calls herself Boaz's servant.

She now uses a more elevated term for servant, because she is now aware of Boaz's responsibility as a close relative of her deceased husband, and in essence, this is a marriage proposal. Well, really, as a friend of mine says, it's a proposal that he propose marriage.

One immediately recognizes a play on words from chapter 2:12. Boaz's words to Ruth are: **The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!**

It's like Ruth is taking his words and turning them back to him. In essence she's saying, *"Hey, I think you're the answer to your prayer!"*

In common Hebrew usage **"to spread one's wings over someone"** was a euphemism for marriage.

And so, what Boaz could have interpreted as an offer of sex, he instead sees as a proposition for marriage.<sup>4</sup>

## **EXPLAIN: RUTH'S BOLDNESS**

And then, just consider again how bold this was for Ruth:

- here is a servant demanding that the boss marry her,
- a Moabite making the demand of an Israelite,

- a woman making the demand of a man,
- a poor person making the demand of a rich man.<sup>5</sup>

A major point of application here, whether you are single or married.

- **Do you know who you are?**
- I mean, really?
- This is the most important thing for you
- whether you are desirous of a romantic relationship
- or wanting renewal in your marriage
- you need to know who you are!
- Identity.

How will Boaz respond to Ruth's request? Verse 10

### **RUTH 3:10**

[10] And he said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter.

Now, notice again the language he uses to address her.

- He calls her his daughter.
- He uses familial language.
- But also, he recognizes God's hand in this
- and he treats her as a daughter of the King.

Ladies, don't even consider being with a man who doesn't recognize this in you, and treat you accordingly.

## ILLUSTRATION: HARPER

I've got a daughter, and man, when she starts having boys interested in her, oh boy, they better get this! Right? You've heard that adage dads say to potential suitors of their daughters: anything you do to her...I do to you. Right!

So, Harper has some neighborhood friends. And there's this kid. Two doors down from us. This boy.

And no joke, she's playing outside with the neighbor kids this week...and this is the picture Maryse sends me. **SLIDE**

My little girl with the neighbor boy, holding hands, walking up the street together!

- And he's 5 years old,
- but Harper's only 4.
- Cradle robber!
- So, like, should I get my gun out?
- I don't know the protocol!

Guys, you treat women like daughters. **SLIDE**

## RUTH 3:10

[10] And he said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich."

So, now we know why Boaz hasn't made the move on Ruth.

- Why he's been dragging his feet for weeks on end.
- He didn't think he was in Ruth's league!

And I get it.

- Gents, I look around at our church,
- and frankly, most of us have out-punted our coverage.
- I mean, how can you not believe in a God of miracles
- when you think that I got Maryse to marry me? Right?

### **EXPLAIN: BOAZ'S HUMILITY**

But Boaz recognizes that Ruth could have married

- for status (a young man)
- or for love (a poor man)
- or for money (a rich man).
- She had some options.

And Boaz himself certainly had status and money, but she chose him for a specific reason: he was a redeemer for the family.<sup>6</sup>

- She's not marrying for wealth, or for youth.
- She has a desire for Boaz to redeem her and Naomi,
- thus saving the family line.
- This is why this is a 'greater kindness'.

The first kindness was Ruth leaving her family and culture to love and serve her mother-in-law, Naomi.

But her second kindness was to choose a man who could not only provide for and protect her, but also one who would honor Naomi, her dead husband's mother.

And Boaz is humble enough to know it is an honor to get to marry Ruth...not the other way around. He's humble!

And gals, real quick, if you're interested in a guy, and he thinks YOU'RE pretty lucky for bagging him...he's a dumpster. Verse 11:

### **RUTH 2:11**

[11] And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman.

Boaz is in. He's in on the plan. And he affirms that Ruth has a growing reputation with the people in town. She is a woman known for her character. And this is the third point. Develop your **SLIDE** CHARACTER before you pursue a relationship.

This is what makes verses 12-13 so important.

### **RUTH 2:12-13**

[12] And now it is true that I am a redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I. [13] Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, as the LORD lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning."

Dun dun dun... Uh oh...the plot thickens. There is another redeemer closer than Boaz is.

And we'll get into this in much greater detail next week, but Boaz shows that his character is a match for Ruth in following protocol for being the kinsman redeemer.

Even if he is to lose her, he wants to do the right thing. So, he has her lie down until morning. Verse 14:

### **RUTH 3:14**

[14] So she lay at his feet until the morning, but arose before one could recognize another. And he said, "Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor."

### **EXPLAIN: SEX**

Boaz protects Ruth's reputation by having her stay. He cares deeply for her, and just so we all know...they didn't do anything sexually that night.

She lays at his feet.

- The public schools may have failed some of us...
- but that's not how things work.

Plus, it would have been so far out of character for them to do anything sexually. But just so we're all on the same page, the Biblical sexual ethic is clear.

**Sex is for married people: one man, one woman, one lifetime.** Period. That's the biblical sex ethic.

- Sex isn't for single people.
- Sex isn't for dating people.
- Sex is for people who are gonna be married.
- Sex isn't for people who are married in their hearts.

That's not even a real thing.

And Ruth and Boaz are wonderful examples for this in a situation where promiscuity could have been a very real outcome. They demonstrate character. Let's finish this up. Verse 15:

### **RUTH 3:15-18**

[15] And he said, "Bring the garment you are wearing and hold it out." So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley and put it on her. Then she went into the city. [16] And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "How did you fare, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her, [17] saying, "These six measures of barley he gave to me, for he said to me, 'You must not go back empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'" [18] She replied, "Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest but will settle the matter today."

So, Boaz gives her some more grain so that she is provided for, but also likely to protect her alibi of why she was there at all.

And then verse 17 is so interesting. He says 'You must not go back empty-handed to your mother-in-law.' Guys, Boaz is smart here!

You wanna get the girl? You better get in with her momma!

## ILLUSTRATION: MARY

The first time I was ever out with Maryse was in a group. A bunch of us from college were all going to the corn maze. And Maryse's parents live close to the corn maze, so, we're going to hang out at their house before the corn maze, because they made us a bunch of food!

Now, I'm not even Maryse's boyfriend at this point... in fact, she was dating a buddy of mine...and he was there, too. But I had a plan! You see, I just hung out in the kitchen all evening, eating spinach dip, chatting up Maryse's mom!

- The way to a man's heart is through his stomach...
- the way to Maryse's heart was through Mary Robinson.

And you know what? The next day, Maryse is talking with her mom on the phone, and Mary says this, *"Wow, that Chris Martin is a great guy. You should date him!"*

- Her actual boyfriend was there!
- Poor sucker missed his opportunity.

Single guys, listen: Win momma, win the girl!

## CONCLUSION

So, this is a really bizarre start to a relationship between Ruth and Boaz, and we'll see how things play out with the other potential redeemer next week, but for today, I want us to end with really one main point.

And I said this is for both singles and married, so the point is basically the same, just nuanced for each group.

You want a good relationship?

- you focus of working hard,
- on securing your identity in Christ,
- and living as a person of character.

I'll sum it up like this: **SLIDE STOP TRYING TO FIND OR FIX "THE ONE". START TRYING TO BECOME THE ONE.**

Our culture is so intent on finding "the mythical one", or once you've found the one, getting them fixed up the way you like. But I'm saying, throw that in the trash, and start focusing on you! Become the one you are meant to be!

And I think that identity piece is maybe the most important part. So, whether you in a romantic relationship or not, I'd ask the same question that both Ruth and Boaz seem to know the answer to:

- do you know who you are?
- Have you discovered yourself?
- Do you own your faith?
- Is your identity secure
  - independent of any other human relationship?
- Do you have this deep sense
  - of being known and loved
  - as a child of God?

## ILLUSTRATION: JOHN

Last year we studied the Gospel of John, and John is one of the disciples who had a nickname.

- He and his brother James were known as the Sons of Thunder.
- What a great nick name!
- They get a theme song...
- Thunder! Ahh Ahh Ahh Ahh.
- It's awesome!
- It just makes me even more sad for Doubting Thomas.

But the Sons of Thunder are always messing stuff up.

- They're always debating who the greatest disciple is,
- or having their mom ask Jesus for special privileges.
- Like, I was just reading this week in Luke 9:
  - Jesus is rejected in a Samaritan village,
  - and the Sons of Thunder are like,
  - *"Jesus, they rejected you.*
  - *You want us to call down fire from heaven,*
  - *or something?"*
- Like, talk about missing the point!

But at the end of Jesus' life we see a complete swing and identity shift for John.

In John 13, at the last supper things are getting crazy,

- Judas leaves to betray Jesus,
- Peter says he'll never deny Jesus
  - when he's about to do that very thing,
- but what does John do?
- In the Greek it literally says
  - that John is resting his head on Jesus' chest.
- The Son of Thunder's identity is converted
- into an Apostle of Love.
- In the midst of crisis, he just wants to be with Jesus.

And we joked about it, right,

- cause what's the nickname he's given in the Gospel of John?
- Yeah, the one who Jesus loves.
- And who wrote that?
- John!
- How bold is that!?!
- "I'm the one who Jesus loves..."
- he just puts it in the Bible.

But on second thought this week, what if that's a statement of identity?

He's the one who Christ loves! He knows who he is!<sup>7</sup>

## ENDING

- Do you know who you are?
- Have you responded to the invitation to come to Jesus?
- You are his child.
- You are his son, his daughter.
- And when you know this,
- you will find yourself becoming the one
- who's ready for a relationship.

Let's pray.

## COMMUNION

We respond in 4 ways:

- Communion
- Tithes & offerings
- Prayer
- Singing

## 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." [25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." [26] For as often as

you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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<sup>1</sup> Daniel Block, *The New American Commentary: Judges, Ruth*.

<sup>2</sup> NET Bible notes.

<sup>3</sup> Adapted from Joby Martin's sermon "The Sovereignty of God in Our Pursuit of Purity."

<sup>4</sup> Daniel Block, *The New American Commentary: Judges, Ruth*.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> Adapted from Mark Sayers' sermon "Singleness."