

RUTH

An Ode to Responsibility

Pastor Toby Locke • Week 4 • 1/30/2022



A Risky “Nudge”

Ruth 2:19-3:13

Introduction: Taking responsibility for myself is great and all, but how do I handle others who shirk *their* responsibilities?

A Close Look at Naomi & Ruth’s Risky Nudge:

- Boaz has a legal obligation but is NOT making a move (2:19-23).
- Naomi & Ruth make plans to give Boaz a “nudge” (3:1-5).
- Ruth executes the plan at great personal risk (3:6-9).
- Boaz rewards Ruth’s faith in him (3:10-13).

What can WE learn from this bold “nudge”?

- ❑ We have an _____ to “nudge” our brothers and sisters. (Matthew 18:15, Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 Thessalonians 5:14)
- ❑ The _____ we “nudge” matters. (Ephesians 4:15, 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15, Philemon 1:8-20)
- ❑ “Nudging” proves we ___ God and our brothers and sisters. (2 Timothy 1:4-6)

Conclusion: God calls us to be catalysts, stimulating our brothers and sisters towards fulfilling their obligations.

FIRST BAPTIST HORSEHEADS LIFE GROUPS



Debrief Plan: 1/30/2022

Icebreakers:

1. Who is a public figure who has influenced your thinking about health, parenting, relationships, career, or some other topic important to you?
2. What person (outside of your parents) influenced your day-to-day decisions the **most** when you were a young person? What made them so influential?

Sermon Summary: God calls us to be catalysts, taking responsibility to “nudge” our brothers and sisters towards fulfilling their obligations, even if it’s risky, because we trust Him with outcomes.

Discussion Questions:

* **We have an obligation to “nudge” our brothers and sisters.**

1. Make a list of all the reasons why it would seem to be a BAD idea to take responsibility to “nudge” other Christians towards fulfilling their obligations.
2. Read Matthew 18:15. Why does Jesus tell his disciples to go and confront a sinning brother? Doesn’t he know how risky that can be? Why not just ignore the offense or set it aside or just let it go?
3. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. Does verse 25 give us any clues of how to accomplish the guidance in verse 24 to “stir up one another to love and good works”? What would it look like for this to go horribly wrong? What would it look like if it were going incredibly right?
4. Read John 2:1-5. Was Mary right or wrong to “nudge” Jesus in this way? How do you know for sure one way or the other?

* **The way we “nudge” matters.**

5. Read Galatians 2:11-14. What method did Paul use to “nudge” Peter? Was it a risky method? If so, why did Paul feel like he needed to do it anyway?
6. Read Ephesians 4:15. Can you remember a time when someone spoke the truth to you, but it was clear that they were motivated by love? How did you take it? What lessons can you draw from HOW that person approached you to help you know how to do the same for others?
7. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15. What’s the difference between warning someone and warning them “as a brother”?

8. Read Philemon 8-20. What methods does Paul use to “nudge” Philemon?

* **“Nudging” proves we trust God (and our brothers and sisters).**

9. Read 2 Timothy 1:4-6. How can you tell that Paul trusts Timothy to respond to his “nudge” the right way?