Sermon Title:” Grow for What You Want”

Rev. Dr. Raquel Lettsome, guest preacher

Scripture: Ruth 3:1-9

Date: July 25, 2021

**Passage Summary**

In the third chapter of the Old Testament book of Ruth, Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi are figuring out life after the death of both their husbands. At that time, a woman’s destiny was tied to marriage and children. The loss of a husband had to be “remedied.” Naomi had devised a plan for Ruth who had gotten a job picking up the leftover grain in a field owned by Boaz. Boaz, a distant relative, could marry Ruth and give her children. Naomi instructed Ruth to wash and anoint herself, put on her best clothes and go to the threshing floor where Boaz was, and hide herself until Boaz has finished eating and drinking.

Once he had lain down, Ruth was instructed to lie down at Boaz’s feet. She did all these things, and then she instructed him to “spread [his] cloak over [her] for you are next-of-kin.” In the end, Boaz married Ruth who bore children who became a part of Jesus’s lineage.

 **Sermon Summary**

“Sometimes God hides us on purpose because God is hiding us for our purpose,” (Tyler Perry). At other times, we hide ourselves. In this passage, most see this story of Ruth as one about marriage and children, but when one digs deeper it is about a woman who seeks, surrenders and shifts to grow for what she wants. Ruth has been hiding behind her work as a gleaner in Boaz’s field. We too can hide behind our work or other things that are good but may not be in line with our purpose. Naomi pushes Ruth to see that she can have more in life than gleaning if she comes out of hiding at the right time. Ruth needed to stop acting and talking like a widow. It was time for her to live and not just survive. We too need to come out of hiding and live out the purpose to which God has called us. We are able to do this knowing that just as Boaz redeemed Ruth, Jesus acts as our redeemer and has us covered.

**Reflection Questions**

1. Describe your favorite hiding place when you were a child?
2. Do you hide behind your work? If so, in what ways?
3. What else do you hide behind that keeps you from living out the purpose God has for you?
4. What do you need to surrender in order to fulfill your purpose?
5. Who do you have in your circle of friends who like Naomi pushes you toward your purpose?
6. What needs to shift in your life for you to fulfill your purpose?