

Dave Gustavsen – Bitter//Sweet: Perseverance – Ruth 2:1-23  
Sermon Based Questions – July 17, 2016

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**Introduction:**

1. When tragedy strikes your life, where do you go to look for answers? Do you look to internal understanding and reflection (“listen to your heart”) or do you look to something outside of you?
2. In the fallen world we live in we cannot escape loss. Is it common to see your friends and family being paralyzed by their devastation? How does this effect his or her circumstances and recovery?

**Understanding:**

3. Grieving is an important phase of dealing with loss, and in a right context, it can be healthy. At what point do you feel like grieving can become *unhealthy*?
4. In the beginning of Ruth chapter 2, we see two common reactions to devastation. Naomi remains at home, possibly because she has no motivation, while Ruth gets up to glean in the fields. Whose actions proved to be more effective in recovering from their loss? Which way do you respond with when facing loss?
5. Pastor Dave introduced the Greek word *hesed* (loyalty/kindness/love/faithfulness). The word usually refers to someone of a stronger position showing *hesed* to someone in a weaker position. Where is this in the story of Ruth? What other stories in the Bible is this shown?
6. Who can we conclude represents “us” in Ruth chapter 2? Who represents God? Explain.
7. In chapter 2 of Ruth, Boaz invites Ruth to come and eat with him and the workers. Although Boaz is wealthy and holds a high status, he still chooses to eat with his workers. How are you investing your time with people that necessarily do not hold the same status as you do?
8. It’s a common misconception that if you accept Christ, you will have an easy life. But the Bible tells a different story. The harsh reality of life is that everyone will experience loss, even the most righteous. So what sets us believers apart from non-believers when addressing this reality? How does this difference effect you?

**Application:**

9. As the story shows, redemption does not come from inner speculation, but rather it comes from a God who calls us to step out. When facing hardship, remember the story of Ruth. Choosing to persevere with a hope instilled by God will allow Him to continue to work in your life as well as touch those around you.