

13th Sep 2020

9:00am



Agape Baptist Church

Reaching Seekers. Building Believers.

Order of Service

Call to Worship

Deuteronomy 7:6-9 (ESV)

Worship through Song

1. *Cannons*
2. *All I Have Is Christ*

Prayer of Confession

Word of Encouragement

Psalms 73:25-26 (ESV)

Welcome & Highlights

Pastoral Prayer

Worship through Giving & Announcements

Scripture Reading

Ruth 2 (ESV)

Sermon

Unimaginable Favour
by Pastor Johanan Justin

Ministry Song

Let Everything That Has Breath

Benediction

Our Vision

To be the catalyst in the city for the gospel to awaken and enliven believers and seekers.

Our Mission

To turn every casual seeker to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ.



Prayer of Confession

Father, we come to You declaring our dependence on You. We need You. From bread to breath. From family to faith. From our jobs to our joy. Every day, we need You.

Lord, forgive us for not acknowledging our need each day. Forgive us for depending on ourselves and our resources. Forgive us for undermining this great covenant that You have called us to!

Still, we rejoice in You! For we belong to You. Our lives are in Your hand. Our history and our future; our disappointments and our longings; our haves and don't haves – Lord You hold them all! More than that, You hold us all.

Father, grant us grace to trust You. To see that the relationship we have with You is not just for the 'spiritual' aspects of life, but it is for all of life. So we come to You, and we ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen.



Sermon Notes from 6 Sep

From Despair to Hope (*Ruth 1*)

by Pastor Johanan Justin

The book of Ruth is relatable and ordinary. Through the life of Naomi and Ruth, we see that even in the ordinary struggles of life, God writes the best stories and has good plans for us.

Moving from Despair to Hope

1) The Wretchedness of Despair

v1-2 – The story of Ruth was set at a time when judges (not kings; interim rulers) ruled; Elimelech's name ironically means '*my God is king*'. There was a famine in the land of Bethlehem, which ironically means *house of bread*. Elimelech and his family were Ephrathites, *original residents* of Bethlehem – yet ironically, they were sojourners in the land of Moab. Despair arises when reality is completely different from how things *should be* – and there is nothing we can do about it. Elimelech dies (v3), leaving behind his wife Naomi and two sons, who eventually married Moabite women [often regarded as immoral, seductive idol worshippers] (v4a). After 10 years, both the sons die (v5). Naomi was left completely crushed by despair and overwhelmed with anxiety and shame. The wretchedness of despair is real in this world, and the book of Ruth acknowledges it.

2) The Result of Despair

Naomi does 3 things in response to her despair:

#1 She returned home from the country of Moab (v6a) – returning was a big part of Naomi's response to despair.

#2 She pushed away those closest to her (vv8-15) – she did so out of a sense of responsibility; if her daughters-in-law had stayed with her, they would have had no chance at a happy and fulfilled life.

#3 She redefined herself through the lens of despair – Naomi renamed herself 'Mara' [bitterness] (vv19-21).

Her suffering had hardened her; it made her existence and identity bitter, and her heart bitter towards God. Naomi's response to her despair was the complete opposite from Job's (Job 1:21b). Despair had robbed Naomi of a vision. Despair makes us vision-less. This is the result of despair.

3) The (surprising) Remedy to Despair

Ruth was the unexpected and surprising remedy to Naomi's despair. She made a covenant with Naomi (vv16a-17a) and invoked a curse upon herself should she fail to fulfil it (v17b). Ruth was entering into Naomi's world of bitterness and cutting off any remaining chance of a happy and fulfilled life. What motivated Ruth to such a vow was hesed (covenant loyalty) love. Hesed is the ordinary, slow acting but effective cure for despair. The remedy to vision-less despair is vision:love hesed. The vision of hesed love will see us through even the worst of times. Fight the atmosphere of despair with covenant loyalty. Hesed love must be our vision!

The only way we can push on in covenant loyalty is to keep returning to Jesus' hesed love towards us. Jesus is our greater Ruth! He gave up His happiness and fulfillment of heaven to enter into our despair. He became empty even to the point of dying on that bitter cross for us so that we can know the pleasant delightful love of God. Despite our resistance towards Him, He clung to us. Jesus vowed to never leave nor forsake us. He has made us His people; His God is now also our God. Where He died, we have died – but as He now lives, we shall also live! What Ruth did for Naomi, Jesus did for all of us. This same Jesus who extended His hesed love *to* us would surely also extend the same hesed love *through* us!



Scripture Reading

Ruth 2 (ESV)

2 Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. **2** And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." **3** So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech. **4** And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered, "The LORD bless you." **5** Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" **6** And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab." **7** She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest."

8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. **9** Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn." **10** Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?" **11** But Boaz answered her,

“All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. ¹² 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!” ¹³ Then she said, “I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants.”

¹⁴ And at mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine.” So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over. ¹⁵ When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, “Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her. ¹⁶ And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her.”

¹⁷ So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. ¹⁸ And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied. ¹⁹ And her mother-in-law said to her, “Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you.” So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, “The man’s name with whom I worked today is Boaz.” ²⁰ And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law,

“May he be blessed by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!” Naomi also said to her, “The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers.”²¹ And Ruth the Moabite said, “Besides, he said to me, ‘You shall keep close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.’”²² And Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, “It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, lest in another field you be assaulted.”²³ So she kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law.



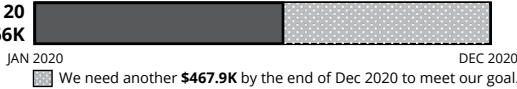
Tithes and Offerings

Church-wide Giving

GENERAL FUND

Collection till 6th Sep: **\$698.1K**

Jan 20 - Dec 20
Goal: **\$1,166K**



MISSIONS FUND

Collection till 6th Sep: **\$98.4K**

Jan 20 - Dec 20
Goal: **\$87K**



**Sep 2020
Collection**

**GENERAL FUND
\$18.8K**

**MISSIONS FUND
\$0.2K**

**WAYS
TO
GIVE**

1. Bank Transfer

Agape Baptist Church
DBS Current acc. no:
028-000554-7

2. Cheque

Make it payable to
**Agape Baptist
Church**

3. QR Code via online payment platform



General Fund



Missions Fund

When giving to missions,
please email deeben.raj@agape.org.sg



Upcoming Events

SEP **Sermon Series: Never Beyond Hope**

Taken from the book of Ruth, Pastor Nun will lead us to see how in the midst of tragedy and despair, God proves that He always has a plan! This series is meant to be warm, encouraging, insightful, and gospel-illuminating! ***So invite a friend to come online with you and catch the sermon together.***

2 more Sundays, 9:00am via live stream on [Facebook @ agapebc.sg](#)

SEP **Pek Kio Magnet Distribution**

This season, instead of giving out mooncakes, we will show love to the Pek Kio community by giving out fridge magnets. Our cell groups will be connecting with Pek Kio residents to let them know that though they may be out of sight, they are not out of mind!

SEP **Donate Used Handphones for the Elderly**

One of the challenges this season for the elderly in our church is that some of their mobile devices cannot connect to their TVs because they are not compatible. In light of that, we are seeking to help them by collecting specific phone models that can work.

If you have any of the following models and would like to bless the elderly by donating it, ***please email Elder Tom (thomaslim@agape.org.sg) or Eric Goh (gkheric@gmail.com).***

Huawei Nova 3i	Samsung Galaxy S10 / S10e / S10+	Samsung Galaxy S20+
Huawei Nova 5T	Samsung Galaxy A10	Samsung Galaxy Z Flip
Huawei Mate20	Samsung Galaxy A10s	OPPO Reno 10x Zoom
Huawei Mate20 Pro	Samsung Galaxy A30	OPPO Reno Z
Huawei Mate20 X	Samsung Galaxy A30s	OPPO Reno2
Huawei P30	Samsung Galaxy A50	OPPO Reno2 Z
Huawei P30 Pro	Samsung Galaxy A51	OPPO A5
Huawei P30 Lite	Samsung Galaxy A70	VIVO V17 Pro
Honor 10 Lite	Samsung Galaxy A80	VIVO NEX 3
Honor 8X	Samsung Galaxy Note 10/ 10+	
Samsung Galaxy S8 / S8+		
Samsung Galaxy S9 / S9+		