

20th Sep 2020

9:00am



Agape Baptist Church

Reaching Seekers. Building Believers.

Order of Service

Call to Worship

Hebrews 4:9-10 (ESV)

Worship through Song

- 1. The Lord Is My Salvation*
- 2. Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me*

Prayer of Confession

Word of Encouragement

Proverbs 10:27-28 (ESV)

Welcome & Highlights

Pastoral Prayer

Worship through Giving & Announcements

Scripture Reading

Ruth 3 (ESV)

Sermon

Taking Risks in the Dark
by Pastor Johanan Justin

Ministry Song

All The Way My Saviour Leads Me

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 confess how easily we are controlled by fear. Forgive us. Forgive us for allowing our dark seasons to eclipse Your greatness. Forgive us for thinking our problems big, but You small. Forgive us for not guarding our hearts from becoming paralysed with fear.

O Lord, You have not given us a spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control. Let us be a covenantal people before You! Empower us to wage war against our fears and anxieties! Enliven us to exercise covenantal loyalty to others, in the midst of fear! Enlarge our hope in You through the darkest of times.

And put us to work, O God. Grant us discernment, creativity, industry, and patience. Let us see Your purposes come to pass – in our lives, and in this church. We ask all this in Jesus' name, amen.



Sermon Notes from 13 Sep

Unimaginable Favour (*Ruth 2*)

by Pastor Johanan Justin

Naomi and Ruth struggle to start a new life. Yet *Ruth 2* is an account of unimaginable favour.

Unimaginable Favour

1) The Shock of favour

This was the day that changed Ruth's life forever—she left home empty handed, and would return with an abundance.

v2-7 Boaz shows Ruth unimaginable favour. She should have only gleaned among the grains, yet she is allowed to glean among the sheaves (v15). As a Moabite woman, she should have been the last in line to glean, yet he allows her to be the first (v10). She should be gleaning in fear of being mocked and abused, yet he guarantees her safety (v9, 15). She should have been pouring water for the hired workers to drink, yet it's the other way around (v9). He even elevates her status by inviting her to share a meal with him and his workers. He also instructs them not to scold her and to pull out additional bundles for Ruth to glean (v14-15).

v19b Naomi's amazement at this shock of favour leads her to exclaim, "Blessed be the man who took notice of you." *Favour is being noticed.* The heights of the favour that Ruth experienced only came about because the depths of her need had been noticed.

2) The Source of favour

v10b, 20b Boaz shows Ruth favour on account of his relationship with Naomi. He is also grateful for Ruth's care for Naomi.

Relationship is the source of favour. God has designed relationships to be the means by which he shows divine favour. But the reason we do not experience that favour is because we often treat our relationships as *commercial* (self-

benefiting, transactional) not *covenantal* (self-giving, unconditional). We all desire covenantal relationships, but in practice we seem to prefer commercial ones. What is the secret to being more covenantal, and thus seeing God's divine favour?

3) The Secret to favour

Ruth questions the reason for Boaz's favour (v10b). Boaz responds by saying that the LORD is indebted to her, *to repay her and reward her in full* (v12b). It was as though what Ruth did for Naomi was done directly for God (Mt. 10:40, 42). This is because Naomi belonged to the LORD (Yahweh). The secret to this divine favour was Ruth's covenantal relationship with God (Ru. 1:16, 22).

The secret to favour is covenantal relationship with God. All the unimaginable favour Naomi and Ruth experienced had been God's covenantal loyalty towards them (v20a). Without covenantal relationship with God, we cannot experience covenantal relationship with one another and unimaginable favour.

3 applications to make the most of your covenantal relationship with God:

#1 Ask – we may not know how deep our relationship with God goes - so ask, and find out!

#2 Reflect – relate to others by reflecting the covenantal relationship you have with God

#3 Treasure – God has bound Himself to you in covenantal relationship through the cross of His Son.

We have unimaginable favour with God. Because we are in covenant with Him, we are never beyond hope. Take refuge under His wings!



Scripture Reading

Ruth 3 (ESV)

3 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? ² Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you were? See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. 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. 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.” 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. 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. ⁸ At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! 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.” 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. 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. 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.”

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.” 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.”



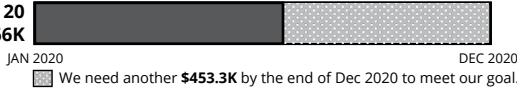
Tithes and Offerings

Church-wide Giving

GENERAL FUND

Collection till 13th Sep: **\$712.7K**

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



MISSIONS FUND

Collection till 13th Sep: **\$98.4K**

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



Sep 2020
Collection

GENERAL FUND
\$33.4K

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.***

1 more Sunday, 9:00am via live stream on [Facebook @ agapebc.sg](https://www.facebook.com/agapebc.sg)

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 Z
Huawei P30	Samsung Galaxy A50	OPPO A5
Huawei P30 Pro	Samsung Galaxy A51	VIVO V17 Pro
Huawei P30 Lite	Samsung Galaxy A70	VIVO NEX 3
Honor 10 Lite	Samsung Galaxy A80	
Honor 8X	Samsung Galaxy Note 10/ 10+	
Samsung Galaxy S8 / S8+		
Samsung Galaxy S9 / S9+		