



Daily Devotionals

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RUTH 2:4 THE MAN OF GOD

Written by Rev. Dr. Charles D. (Chuck) Alley, Ph.D., Rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Richmond, Va.

⁴ *Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The LORD be with you!" "The LORD bless you!" they called back.*

What kind of man greets his workers in the field in such a manner as this? And what kind of a relationship he must have with them to receive their response of blessing? Boaz is clearly a man of God who has a divine love and concern for even those who work in his fields. Even at the height of the Barley harvest when his workers should be the busiest, Boaz offers them the distraction of a godly greeting and encouragement.

This is the humility that can only be demonstrated by a man who knows that he lives under the authority of God and has responsibility before God for the well-being of his fellow human beings. It is also the generosity that willingly shares that which is most important in his life with all those with whom he is in relationship. This is a man who reflects the righteous of God in his life.

Godly leadership in the home, the office, at school, on the playing field and in the church is first and foremost God-centered. It is a leadership that is based on making God and his will first in our lives. The example of Boaz can help us attain such leadership quality. When you see your spouse, children, students, co-workers, teammates, subordinates or clerks in the store, is your first thought that God would be with them? Start out just praying as you see them that the Lord would be with them. Such an internal decision on your part will transform your attitude toward others and be a giant step on the path toward living as a godly person every day.

How simple are the words "the Lord be with you," and yet how hard I find it to even think in those terms about my neighbors. Lord Jesus, fill my heart with your love so that I will seek your blessing for everyone with whom I come into contact each day. May I not take any person for granted or dismiss him as part of the backdrop for my life. As I want to be in your presence, may I seek to bring others into your presence also. Amen.

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