



THE LOOP

COQUILLE FOURSQUARE CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2023

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OUR KINSMAN RUTH

PASTOR KEN DUKE



ETHAN AND HIS SON, JASON

One of the most beautiful love stories in Scripture is found in the Book of Ruth. It is the story of an older widowed woman, Naomi; a young Moabite woman, widowed, and daughter-in-law to Naomi, Ruth; and then a man by the name of Boaz. I invite you to take some time and read “Ruth”, it is a fascinating story of Compassion.

Compassion; defined as: “concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others”. It is an important perspective as you read Ruth. I hope many of you have read the story. For those not too familiar, it is basically about Ruth, who was the wife of one of Naomi’s sons, who died. Therefore, she was

REDEEMER



encouraged by Naomi and was released so she could return to her homeland of Moab. Yet, she chose to stay with Naomi by saying some of the most powerful statements a human can say to another; Ruth 1:16 – “Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.”

Ruth, a Moabite, exhibits compassionate love towards her mother-in-law; by respecting and desiring to live with her and worship the same God together. One of the attributes of Godly love is the expression of compassion toward others.

Lamentations 3:22-23 –
“Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not, they are new every morning; Great is your Faithfulness.”

Our God has eternal compassion for all of us, for the Word says, “His compassions fail not”. That means every day, every hour, every second, we can and are receiving His fresh redemptive power only found in Jesus Christ. There are so many, MANY times I go to the Lord seeking His Love, Mercy, Grace, Forgiveness, and Compassion. I know I’m not the only one, am I? Here is the GOOD NEWS... because He is our “Great and Faithful



GRACIE, BELLA, FAITH, GRACE, & PASTOR VICTORIA AFTER WINNING TUG-O-WAR AT YOUTH CAMP

God.” He assures us in His word and by His Spirit He is always with us, never leaving, and never forsaking us, ever!

We can live in the assuring faith that “His Compassions fail not” by trusting in His Truth, found in His Holy Word. We can see in it how Jesus lived interacting with the people who called out to Him as He walked the roads of Israel. Remember “the leper

on the side of the road”, “the feeding of the 5000”, and so many more! Jesus lived out what compassion looks like, as it says in one such encounter; “He had compassion on them” (from Mark 6:34).

Therefore, God’s Word instructs us in numerous places and examples to be a people who “Look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others

(Phil 2:4).” Compassion, inspired by His Love, empowered by His Holy Spirit is what binds us together. “In the world you will have trouble, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33).

So, Join with Me and Be Such a People, a People of Compassion for All,

In Jesus’ Name. ■



BRUCE REALLY ENJOYS NACHOS



GRACE, KIERSTEN, FAITH, AND BELLA DURING DEVO TIME AT YOUTH CAMP

SEPTEMBER



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Church | 4 | 5 Mens' Bible Study | 6 TRIBE | 7 Celebrate Recovery | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Church | 11 | 12 Mens' Bible Study | 13 TRIBE | 14 Celebrate Recovery | 15 | 16 |
| 17 Church | 18 | 19 Mens' Bible Study | 20 TRIBE | 21 Celebrate Recovery | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Church | 25 | 26 Mens' Bible Study | 27 TRIBE | 28 Celebrate Recovery | 29 | 30 |



Church Service: Every Sunday Morning at 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary.

Mens' Bible Study: Every Tuesday morning at 6:30 AM in the Sanctuary.

For more details, see Pastor Sam Flaherty.

TRIBE: Jr. High and High School Group, every Wednesday Evening at 6:30 - 8:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Celebrate Recovery: Every Thursday evening at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

For more details, see Bill Howell.



THE MARRIAGE COURSE

DETAILS COMING SOON

PASTOR SAM & LOVENA
FLAHERTY



“Mawage. Mawage is wot
bwings us together today.
Mawage, that blessed
awangement, that dweam
wifin a dweam. And wuv, tru
wuv, will fowow you foweve.
So tweasure your wuv.”
- A famous quote from the
Princess Bride movie by the
“Impressive Clergyman.”

Often quoted is how he says
“Mawage.” What is overlooked
in his ridiculousness is
the profound statement:
“tweasure your wuv!”

Just over 34 years ago
Lovena and I were on a
horse and carriage ride along
the beautiful Riverfront of
downtown Portland. I had
the whole thing planned. I
was going to give Lovena a
“Promise Ring.” We had dated
about 2 years and were legit
high school sweethearts. I was
21 and Lovena was 20 years
old. The promise was that I
was her forever man. That I
wanted us to be married but
it would take time for us to
finish school and to be able to

afford marriage. It was super romantic and fun!

Fast forward 3 months and I have a wedding ring burning in my pocket. I realized that school would take forever and I might not ever be able to “afford” being married. I planned another romantic evening near the Columbia River Gorge and asked Lovena to marry me. She said “YES!” We would finish school and be poor together, on a great adventure.

Looking back after 32 years of marriage: with all the highs and lows, joys and sadness, counseling, various marriage classes and more – our driving mission was to “treasure our wuv.” Treasuring our love relationship with God and with each other has been our commitment over the years

and will continue to carry us forward. Our marriages today, more than ever, need to be treasured. A treasured marriage speaks to the health and vitality of the family unit and the communities we live in. Investing in our marriages can look different for couples, however, doing a class together will give common tools and language that can deeply impact your marriage. Lovena and I want to offer an opportunity for our marriages to be treasured. Will you join us on our journey?

We have decided to offer “The Marriage Course.” It will be an 8-week journey looking at the following topics:

- Strengthening Connection
- The Art of Communication
- Resolving Conflict
- The Power of Forgiveness

- The Impact of Family
- Good Sex
- Love in Action

What does each session look like? (This is what Lovena and I are most excited about.) You and your partner are encouraged to eat dinner together before coming. Each session is meant to feel like a date-night: relaxed, romantic table for two. We want each couple to have privacy and not have to share anything about your relationship with anyone other than your partner. The room will be filled with 2 person tables and may include desserts. Background music will ensure that you have privacy for your conversations. Video talks will instruct and inform couples on valuable topics with tools along with private conversations throughout. ■



PASTOR KAYLEE HANKS

CANVAS & CLAY

In the spring of 2019, just before moving to Coquille in the summer, I went to our International Foursquare Conference with my friends and leaders from Canby Foursquare. It was in Nashville, Tennessee. There I developed a love for *real* sweet tea and fried pickles, thanks to my friend, Grace.

Because we were in Nashville, some of my friends really wanted to go to the Soda Parlor. This was an ice cream shop owned by a YouTuber, named Olan Rogers. He is a guy who tells funny stories, performs sketches, has memorable one-liners, and shares his creative ideas projects.

This is where I was introduced to one of Olan's trademark characters, Battle Bear, a bear often carrying an ax, a shield, a bow, and a quiver full of arrows. Battle Bear represents the passion of being a warrior, one who gets hit, and doesn't roll over, but fights back.

I fell in love with this design, 1. because I am an illustrator, I like bears, and it is a cool design, but 2. because being a warrior is my story. Getting knocked down and getting hit by things like anxiety and shame is where I come from. And, without fail, Jesus has always given me the strength to get back up, fiercely overcome, and step into the joy of knowing Him and being known by Him. ■



PASTOR KAYLEE HANKS

HOW DO YOU CONSIDER

A DEVO
LISA SLATER

Clothing, such a simple item. We all participate in the common demonstration, not only as an essential element of human modesty and decency, but as an outward expression of an inner image or public significance. Clothing is found all throughout the bible, dating back to the very beginning of time as we know it.

Genesis 3:21

The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

The Lord our God loved us so immensely that, even amidst the shame which Adam and Eve's first sin brought upon us, He fashioned mankind's earliest outfit. He desired to walk with us. To share time

and space with us. In order to do that, He covered our sin, for the first time, with clothes.

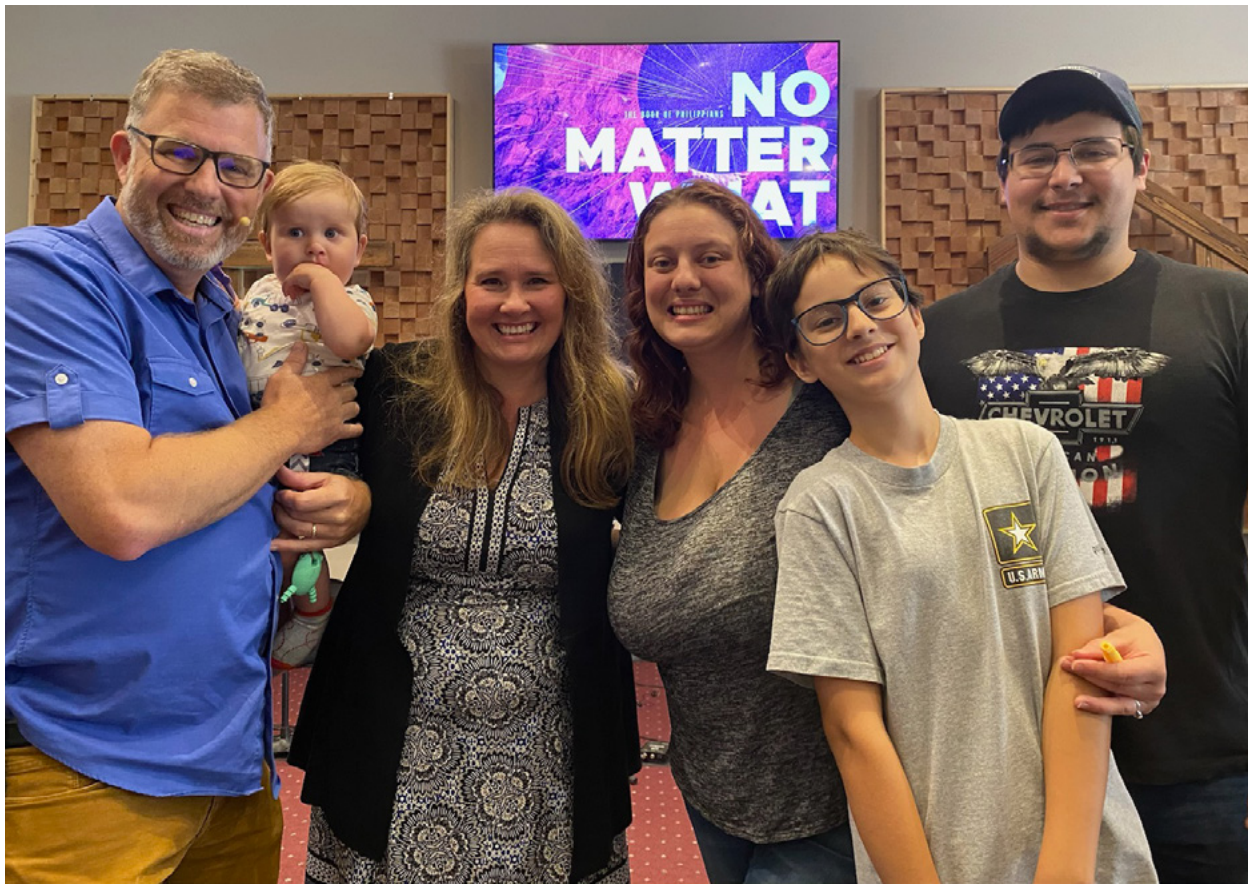
Just as God had showed His love for us through the distribution of garments, we tend to follow His lead. How often do we make or purchase a garment for a loved one for Christmas or for no other reason than to say, "I was thinking of you"? Israel did the same thing for his favorite son, Joseph in Genesis.

Genesis 37:3

Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic.

In addition to God's love, God exhibits His faithfulness

ER YOUR CLOTHING?



BREANNA & GABE REAB WITH KIDS, MELODY & CLYDE - BABY DEDICATION 2023

through apparel. His people, after fleeing Egypt, because of their disobedience, wandered the wilderness for forty years. Even then, He was with them, confirming as much.

Deuteronomy 29:5
I have led you forty years in the wilderness; your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandal has not worn out on your foot.

The bible provides overwhelming evidence to the fact that God utilizes garments as a means of publicizing importance. Even Herod and his soldiers were unwittingly drawn into God's divine illustration. What Herod and the soldiers had meant as mockery, was a breathtaking exemplification of God's truth. Jesus is our King.

Luke 23:11
And Herod with his soldiers, after treating Him with

contempt and mocking Him, dressed Him in a gorgeous robe...

Another such entry illuminating the importance of garments was God's instructions for the temple's priests.

Ezekiel 44:17,19
It shall be that when they enter the gates of the inner court, they shall be clothed with linen. When they go out into the outer court, they shall put off their linen garments and lay them in the holy chambers and put on other garments so that they will not transmit holiness to the people.

Have you ever considered holiness being transferable by way of the clothing we wear, like a perfume? The way to bathe in the fragrance of God's holiness and power is to spend time in His presence. A certain



STARBUCKS BEFORE HEADING TO YOUTH CAMP? YES, PLEASE!

woman in the bible was noted for having believed that Jesus' power could be transmitted from his presence through the mere fringe of His clothing.

Matthew 9:20

And a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years, came up behind Him [Jesus] and

touched the fringe of His cloak.

The woman's faith verified Jesus' "fragrance" as transferable. She was immediately healed.

I ask again, how do you consider your clothing? Do you look at them solely through

the lenses of a material world, as meaningless attire? Or do you look at them for how God clearly distinguishes them, as a way to publicize the evidence of God's love and faithfulness in your life? Have you spent enough time with Jesus so that even your clothes bear the scent of Him? ■

MIKE'S FUNNIES

Long fairy tales have a tendency to... DRAGON!

Some day, I want to make an edge football joke on Facebook. It's my... GOAL POST!

A train can hear another train coming by using its... ENGIN-EARS!

Young snowmen are called... CHILL-DREN!

What do you call Batman after he gets beat up? BRUISED WAYNE!

An octopus robbed a bank this morning. He didn't have a gun, but he was... WELL ARMED!

Nobody has seen the zamboni driver, but I'm sure eventually he will... RESURFACE!

Archaeologists in Egypt have unearthed a tomb containing a mummy covered in chocolate and nuts. They believe it's the remains of the long lost... PHARAOH ROCHE!

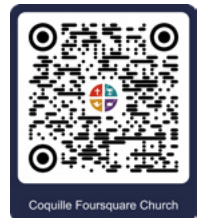


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