

2 APR 2023 | ELDER LEE EE YANG | THE GLEANING PRINCIPLE

RUTH 2:1-9, 14-19

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Understand the heart of God for the poor and the marginalised;
2. Commit to practice the Gleaning Principle in today's context; and
3. Participate in the various RiverLife Community Services projects.

SERMON SUMMARY

One of God's clearest commands in the Old Testament is to always remember and help the needy and the marginalised ([Deuteronomy 15:10-11](#)).

The story of Ruth and Naomi ([Ruth 2:1-9, 14-19](#)) is a beautiful illustration of *The Gleaning Principle* in [Leviticus 19:9-10](#). In ancient Israel, God instituted the practice of gleaning as a way to feed the poor. A farmer would leave some of his crop in the fields unharvested so that the poor in the community would gather the leftover for their own sustenance.

There are many *Ruths* and *Naomis* in our community that we can all sow into. Let us create margins in our life to give to those families in need. Will you answer God's call to allow others to glean from your abundance?

SERMON RECAP

To wrap up the pulpit series *A River Flowing Outwards to The Community & Nations*, Elder Ee Yang shared the last message called *The Gleaning Principle*.

Justice and righteousness are the foundations of God's throne ([Psalm 89:14](#)). Injustice is anything that has fallen out of God's order. It has led to the first murder when the earth had only four people.

The top social issue in the whole world is poverty. Extreme wealth and extreme poverty have seen a sharp simultaneous increase for the first time in 25 years. The problem is not insufficient resources; it's unequal or unrighteous distribution.

The poverty rate in Singapore among the working elderly jumped from 13% in 1995, to 28% in 2005 to 41% in 2011. A CNA article says the future face of Singapore's elderly poor may not be the one-room flat. It's the 3-4 room flat – middle income people who may have assets but are cash poor.

The Lord's command is to always remember and help the needy and the marginalised ([Deuteronomy 15:10-11](#)). Likewise, Jesus' entire life was an embodiment of God's especial closeness to the poor ([Luke 4:18-19](#)). One practical way to help the poor is through *the gleaning principle* ([Ruth 2:1-9; 14-19](#)).

1. Gleaning helps the needy to receive God's provision

In ancient Israel, God instituted the practice of gleaning as a way to feed the poor. A farmer would leave some of his crop in the corners of the fields for the poor to gather for their own sustenance. ([Leviticus 19:9-10](#)). Through this principle, Ruth was able to glean from Boaz's fields.

Gleaning can only take place because of God's provision to His people. Where there is no harvest, there is nothing to glean. God, in His grace, has blessed RiverLife with an abundance of food for distribution. As a result, the poor, living in our neighbourhood, are able to glean from His provision.

2. Gleaning involves the whole of God's family

All of God's people in Boaz's field showed kindness to Ruth and sowed into her life. They gave their time and effort to make sure Ruth had enough to eat and to take home. This is a picture of God's family practising the gleaning principle together to serve the underprivileged in the community.

3. Gleaning brings the needy into a redemptive encounter with God

Many theologians have acknowledged that Boaz is a type of Christ in the Old Testament. He ultimately became *the kinsman redeemer* of both Jews and Gentiles, buying the lost inheritance of Naomi – a Jew, and Ruth – a Gentile ([Ruth 4:4](#) and [4:8](#)), thus gaining the right to take Ruth as his bride.

God is not just interested to provide for our felt needs, He has sent Jesus to redeem us from our sins and give us an eternal and abundant life.

Call to action

There are *Ruths* and *Naomis* in our community that we can all sow into. Let us create margins in our life to give to families in need. Let us get out of our comfort zones to bless the least of these.

God has provided the harvest for us, but they're not just for ourselves but for the community. Boaz represents Christ the Chief Harvester and we are all working in his field. Will you answer the call to leave some of the harvest for the poor:

1. RCS Family Movie Date to raise \$150,000 in total for 2023
2. 20 family volunteers to serve families in our community
3. Donation in kind
4. Corporate partnerships and collaborations

God's River will flow out into the community. Let's be a Blessing.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Why did God originally institute the practice of gleaning? What does this teach us about God's character?**

Leader's Notes

This is a *recap* question for members to discuss how the Gleaning Principle points to God's character and His divine purposes. The book of Ruth illustrates how God in His mercy provides for ordinary people. God uses a faithful non-Israelite woman to bring restoration to His people. The story of Ruth, Naomi and Boaz reveals how God's divine purposes interplay with human decisions.

Resources

Watch: [Bible Project's Book of Ruth Summary](#)

Read: [What is Gleaning in the Bible? Does it Still Apply Today?](#)

Transition

We know that we are saved by God's grace, not our own good deeds – but God still wants us to do good deeds. God saved us not just for heaven but to serve others here on earth.

2. **The Gospel refers to God's heart for the poor and the needy frequently (e.g. [Luke 4:18,19](#)). Do you think that this theme is talked about enough in the church or has it been somewhat overlooked?**

Leader's Notes

This is a *reflect* question to discuss if the church in general, or RiverLife in particular, has minimised or overlook the Gospel's call to serve the poor. Is the church doing enough to help the poor? If not, why? Is it because we think it is the government's responsibility? What is the connection between the Gospel and serving the poor? Have we sacrificed one for the other? And have we focused too much on church activities within the four walls and less on serving those outside?

Resources

Read: [The Problem with A 'Heart for the Poor'](#)

Read: [The Gospel and the Poor](#)

Transition

We know God's heart breaks for the *Ruths and Naomis* of this world. How will our own hearts break like His for them?

3. **God has provided for most of us – not just for ourselves but in order to share with the community in need. Would you answer God's call to leave some of your harvest for the poor and needy among us?**

Leader's Notes

This is a *response* question to walk the talk, to put into action what we have *gleaned* from God's Word this week. Let us discuss how we can all chip in to be part of RiverLife's community projects below:

- A. Buy tickets to the RCS Family Movie Date
- B. Be one of the 20 family volunteers needed to serve in our community
- C. Give donation in kind
- D. Participate in corporate partnerships and collaborations

Link: [RCS Serving Opportunities](#)

Resources

Read: [Remember the Poor – the Call of the Church](#)

Read: [Advocating for the Poor and Needy – Addressing Poverty in Singapore](#)

Closing

Having discussed and embraced God's heart for the poor, let us remember that God is not just interested to provide for the felt needs of people. He has sent Christ to redeem them from their sins and to give them eternal life. Our ultimate calling is *both* the Great Commandment ([Matthew 22:36-40](#)) and the Great Commission ([Matthew 28:16-20](#)).

PRAYER

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- Pray that RiverLifers will learn to live lives that go beyond ourselves
- Pray that RiverLife church will be a blessing to those in need around us

2. World

- Pray for those affected by the aftermath of the Turkey-Syria earthquake.
- Pray for those affected by the school shootings in Nashville, Tennessee.
- Pray for a swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a significant reduction in cases, and a stable environment where humans and virus coexist.
- Pray for peace in the Russia-Ukraine war and in the US-China conflict.

3. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to guide us as we step out to serve pre-believers in our midst.
- Ask the Lord to grant us opportunities to reach out to a non-believing family member, a friend, or a colleague during this week as we seek to obey the Great Commission.



EASTER 2023

Reflection & Prayer Guide

“And when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ you shall say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the Lord’s Passover, for He passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when He struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.’” – Exodus 12:26-27 (ESV)

Reflection

The Passover meal, since the times of the Exodus, has been celebrated by the Jewish people up till this day. At this meal or “seder”, the Jewish people follow strictly a “program” from the “Haggadah” (Jewish Text) – the types of food that needs to be present at the seder, questions the children are supposed to ask, when to drink the various cups, etc. The whole purpose of the Passover meal is to remember what God did for them as a nation during the Exodus, and to educate their children on this event. They will sing about the exodus, and the children will ask certain questions that the adults will answer such as “why is this night different from all other nights?”.

But at a Passover between Jesus and His disciples, He has instituted a new “seder” with all His believers. We know it as “The Lord’s Supper”. As believers, like the Jews, we remember at this seder how God rescued us from our Egypt and set us on a path towards eternal and abundant life. As you journey towards Good Friday and Easter this year, take some time to reflect how God has rescued you from your Egypt and spend some time thanking Him for intervening in your eternity.

Prayer Pointers

1. Ask the Lord to help you to never lose the wonder of your salvation story.
2. Ask the Lord to help you recount your own “Exodus” story to the next generation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. Easter @ RiverLife.

- **Evangelistic Service Sun. 9 Apr, 9am. Worship Centre.** Speaker - Pastor David Peters. There will be prayer for those who need healing.
- **Hosting Our First-Time Guests.** Invite your family and friends who are new to RiverLife to join our Welcome Lunch on Sun, 23 Apr.

2. RiverLife Community Services.

- **RCS Family Movie Day 2023 Sat, 17 Jun. 9am to 12pm. Shaw Theatres Lido Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse.** With every donation of \$100, you will receive 2 complimentary tickets to the movie screening. You may opt to donate your complimentary tickets to our beneficiaries so that they and their families can join in the movie screening. Register and donate online: tinyurl.com/rcsmovieday23.
- **Serve Together as a Family.** Find out more about RiverLife Community Services and how you can play a part in caring for the community! Link: [RCS Serving Opportunities](#)

3. **Young Adults Camp | Commune. 7-9 July 2023. Opero Hotel Southkey, Johor Bahru.** If the end goal of discipleship is transformation unto Christlikeness, then beholding is foundational to the life of every believer. We are called to behold Jesus together—to commune with God within the context of community. So, let's embark on this journey together to gain a fuller understanding of God, a better glimpse of the radiant Church He desires, and the courage to walk faithfully with community until He returns. Come, be part of this journey!
 - Early Bird Fees (Until 16 Apr): \$210 (Student/NSF), \$260 (Adult).
 - Regular Fees (17 Apr-7 May): \$240 (Student/NSF), \$290 (Adult).
 - Register at rlc.sg/yacamp2023.
 - Enquiries: yacamp@riverlife.org.sg

4. **MegaLife Camp (Ages 13-18).** 15-18 Jun (Thu-Sun) RELC International Hotel (30 Orange Grove Rd) & RiverLife Church. Registration details will be released next weekend.
 - Early Bird (1-16 Apr): \$200 per pax
 - Normal (17-23 Apr): \$230 per pax

5. **Learning To Love SuperLife Camp 2023 (P1-P6 Children). Thu-Fri, 8 & 9 Jun: 8.30am to 6pm Sat, 10 Jun: 9.30am to 5pm.** *Learning to Love 2023* is an onsite day camp jointly organised by RiverLife Church and Sterling Campus for children in Primary 1 to 6. Through hands-on activities, interactive sessions and Bible-based teaching, participants will learn about God's intended purposes for their studies and see their time in school with fresh eyes!
 - **Parents, you're invited! Sat, 10 Jun, 1.30pm to 5pm.** Parents-only Session by Sterling Campus Find out how you can journey with your child beyond what they've learnt at camp and how they can continue integrating faith in your home.
 - 1.30pm to 3pm: Parents-only Session by Sterling Campus
 - 3pm to 5pm: Family Celebration + High Tea
 - **Camp Fees:** \$70 per child (Early Bird Rate until 26 Mar), \$80 per child (27 Mar to 9 Apr), add \$10/pax for each additional parent and sibling coming for the High Tea.
 - **Registration:** rlc.sg/slcamp2023.
 - **Helpers.** We're also looking for RiverLifers who would like to serve at this camp as adult helpers. Sign up to serve here: rlc.sg/slcamp2023serve

6. **Israel Messianic Encounter. 20 Nov –1 Dec. Cost: \$4,950 (30 pax trip), \$4,850 (40 pax trip).** Join this trip and receive a revelation of the significance of Israel in the end times. You will gain a deeper appreciation of the cultural and geographical background of Scripture, and rediscover your Hebraic spiritual roots. Registration closes on 30 April 2023. For More Information: <https://event.actexplorer.com> (Password: RLKCC2023IME)

7. **Maranatha – Live Album Recording with Josh Yeoh & Friends @ RiverLife Church.** Sun, 23 Apr, 7pm (Doors Open at 6:15pm). Free Admission with Registration. Josh Yeoh and friends are gathering the Body of Christ from the nations for a night of worship and prayer to record 10 original songs at RiverLife Church. Registration Link: maranathalive.eventbrite.com.

8. **Church Calendar Highlights**
 - *Quarter 2*
 - Easter Evangelistic Services: 8-9 Apr
 - Bible Equipping – Acts: 26 & 28 May, 2 & 4 Jun
 - Children's Camp: 8-10 Jun
 - Youth Camp: 15-18 Jun
 - Cell Revival Nights (Fridays): 2-30 Jun
 - *Quarter 3*

- Young Adult Camp: 7-9 Jul
 - 32nd Anniversary Weekend: 26-27 Aug
 - Bible Equipping – Leviticus: 15 & 17, 22 & 24 Sep
 - Cells Prayer Night #2: 29 Sep
 - *Quarter 4*
 - Equipping Series: 17 & 19, 24 & 26 Nov
 - Christmas Outreach: Dec
 - Cells Prayer Night #3: 29 Dec
9. **RiverLife Prayer Meetings**
 - **RLC Prayer Room.** Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Online: rlc.sg/rpr-watch)
 - **Wed Night Prayer Meeting.** Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel.
 10. **9M Ministry.** The 9M Ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.
 - Receive Prayer Support: rlc.sg/9m
 - Provide Prayer Support: rlc.sg/serve
 11. **Global Hunger Fund.** This fund will go towards RLC’s mission partners to help their local churches and communities gain access to food amid soaring costs. Refer to the Digital Bulletin for more details.
 12. **RiverLife Cares Opportunities.** Signup: <http://rlc.sg/serve-rlcares>
 13. **Call for SuperLife Volunteers.** If you have a heart for children and a desire to disciple them in their spiritual journey, come be a part of the SuperLife team. Sign up at rlc.sg/serve. Immediate needs:
 - *SuperLife Primary Teacher* (Serve twice a month. Facilitate small group discussions after each Bible lesson, connect and pray with the children, be involved in SuperLife Ministry events, etc.)
 - *Special Needs Chaperone.* (Serve twice a month. Provided 1-1 support to children with special needs and help facilitate an inclusive environment between children with and without special needs.)
 14. **Technical & Production (TAP) Ministry Recruitment.** The TAP ministry comprises five teams – audio, graphics, lighting, sound and video – and they all work as one in partnership with the Holy Spirit to support an atmosphere that allows the congregation to encounter God. We are now opening up recruitment for this ministry. If you desire to take the next step in your walk with God through starting to serve, we invite you to sign up to explore serving in one of the five TAP teams. You may sign up online at rlc.sg/serve or refer to our digital bulletin for more details.
 15. **Bible Reading Plan.** The church has provided 3 undated Bible Reading plans that will serve as a resource for those who wish to follow a Bible Reading plan. Link: rlc.sg/brp
 - 2 Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan.
 - 3 Year Bible Reading Schedule (Alternating readings between Old and New Testament passages)
 - Redemptive Historical Bible Reading Plan (At your own pace, focusing on the redemption story)
 16. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search ‘*The RiverLife Podcast*’ on Spotify.
 17. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations

for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.

18. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
19. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.
20. **Stay Connected with RLC.** Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.
 - **WhatsApp Broadcast:** Text 'Subscribe' to 8923 1939
 - **Telegram Channel:** t.me/RiverLifeChurch
 - **Facebook & Instagram:** [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.facebook.com/riverlifechurchsg)

GIVING LINKS & QR CODES

ONLINE GIVING TO MISSIONS

Donate digitally:

PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter UEN No. 200100806DTNO.

Interbank Transfer

UOB Account 450-309634-4

Kindly indicate "Missions" in your transaction reference.



ONLINE GIVING TO RIVERLIFE CHURCH

Contribute your tithes and offering digitally:

PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter UEN No. 200100806DSCB.

Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account: DBS Autosave 029-902431-0

Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029



ONLINE DONATION TO RIVERLIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Donate digitally:

PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this QR code on the right OR enter UEN No. 200711586WDON

Kindly indicate your NRIC No. under the Bill Reference to qualify for tax deduction.

