

Sunday, October 18, 2015

“You Have Something the World Needs”

Sixth in the Series, “Inspired: The Whole of Life with God in the Picture”
Will Messenger

John 5:17; 9:4 (NRSV)

“My Father is still working, and I also am working....We must work the works of him who sent me.”

Genesis 2:4–5 (all passages NLT except as noted)

When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, neither wild plants nor grains were growing on the earth. For the LORD God had not yet sent rain to water the earth, and there were no people to cultivate the soil.

Ruth 2:17-23

Ruth gathered barley in Boaz’s field all day, and when she beat out the grain that evening, it filled an entire basket. She carried it back into town and showed it to her mother-in-law. Ruth also gave her the roasted grain that was left over from her meal. “Where did you gather all this grain today?” Naomi asked. “Where did you work? May the LORD bless the one who helped you!” So Ruth told her mother-in-law about the man in whose field she had worked. She said, “The man I worked with today is named Boaz.” “May the LORD bless him!” Naomi told her daughter-in-law. “He is showing his kindness to us as well as to your dead husband. That man is one of our closest relatives, one of our family redeemers.”

Then Ruth said, “What’s more, Boaz even told me to come back and stay with his harvesters until the entire harvest is completed.” “Good!” Naomi exclaimed. “Do as he said, my daughter. Stay with his young women right through the whole harvest. You might be harassed in other fields, but you’ll be safe with him.” So Ruth worked alongside the women in Boaz’s fields and gathered grain with them until the end of the barley harvest. Then she continued working with them through the wheat harvest in early summer. And all the while she lived with her mother-in-law.

Mark 4:3-9 (NLT)

“Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it. Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn’t have deep roots, it died. Other seed fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants so they produced no grain. Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they sprouted, grew, and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!” Then Jesus said, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

Note-o-matic

1. You have an inner need to work because you are made in the image of God; it’s a good thing that you also have something the world needs through your work.
2. The world needs you to provide your share of your household’s needs, to the degree you are able in each season of your life.
- ~~3. The world needs you to provide for others, likewise.~~
4. The world needs you to invest in others’ work. Some ways include providing means, welcoming, encouraging, cooperating, appreciating, protecting, partnering, and of course, buying/paying.
5. God is the source of your ability to give the world what it needs. You can plug into this source by thanking God, asking God’s help, studying the Bible, conversing with others, investing time and money, and taking baby steps.