



The Favor Effect – Pt.4

Pastor Ron Carpenter Jr. | Redemption Church

MESSAGE SUMMARY

In this message, Pastor Ron Carpenter Jr. teaches about God's favor through the story of Ruth and Naomi. He explores the dangers of leaving God's word and praise for what appears to be more desirable, and challenges us not to go back to the past when breakthrough is near.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Key Scripture:

"Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons... Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons. Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years. Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband." - Ruth 1:1-5

1. Favor is Undeserved and Unexplained

- Favor is the same word as grace – giving you what you don't deserve
- Favor does not have rationale and cannot be explained
- God uses two elements to drive your life forward: the law of sowing and reaping, and favor
- God did not ask anyone's permission to show you favor

Discussion Question:

1. Pastor Ron said, "Favor does not have rationale, favor is not deserved, and favor cannot be explained." How does this definition of favor challenge or change your understanding of God's grace?

2. Leaving Word and Praise Leads to Death

- Bethlehem means "bread" or "word" – Judah means "praise"
- When you leave the word and praise, everything starts dying
- Jesus said, "My words are spirit and they are life"
- Whatever you communicate with lives; whatever you quit communicating with dies
- Your devotional life is not optional – your spirit needs Word to feed on

Discussion Questions:

1. The message emphasized that when you leave "the word and the praise," everything starts dying. How have you seen this principle play out in your own life or in the lives of others?
2. What relationships, habits, or spiritual practices do you need to "communicate with" more consistently?

3. The Danger of "Greener Pastures"

- Moab means "desirable place" – it always looks better until you get there
- Sometimes what looks greener is just dealing with everyone else's problems
- There's an unseen realm where God is shifting things in your favor
- The scene comes out of the unseen – God shifts it where you can't see before it manifests
- God is moving people and things into place right now for your next level

Discussion Question:

1. There is a danger in looking for "greener pastures" (Moab). Is there a "Moab" in your life right now – something that looks desirable but would take you away from God's best? What is it, and how can you resist its pull?

4. The Trap of Miserable Security

- Going back is usually secure, but you're miserable
- Security is accompanied by mediocrity with its own mindset and system
- It's hard to roll the dice on an uncertain future when you're miserably secure
- You weren't meant to be stagnant – you're meant to be pressing forward
- Like Israel in the wilderness, we're tempted to go back when the future is uncertain

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you relate to living "miserably secure"? What would it take for you to choose God's uncertain future over miserable security?
2. Oftentimes, our past will come back around right before a breakthrough. What from your past is trying to "re-circle" and pull you back? How can you recognize this as a sign you're on the verge of breakthrough?
3. Like Peter saying "I'm going fishing," what is your personal "fishing" – the old life you're tempted to return to when following God gets difficult?

CONCLUSION & CHALLENGE

Before our God-designed breakthrough occurs, oftentimes, our past comes back around. Just as Peter was tempted to return to his old life, so are we when we are on the cusp of our "uncomfortable" next. Take heart, "who the son sets free is free indeed (John 8:36)" so therefore, we have the power to resist our past and embrace the future God has for us. Let's commit today to resist the comfort of our past (Moab) and stay faithful to the word & our praise (Bethlehem – Judah). Trust God and watch Him honor your faithfulness!

This Week's Challenge: *Choose one or more to apply this message to your life:*

1. **Commit to Word and Praise:** Establish or re-establish a daily devotional time. Set a specific time and place where you'll read God's Word and worship Him.
2. **Identify Your Moab:** Write down any "greener pastures" that are tempting you away from God's plan. Pray specifically about each one and ask God for strength to stay where He has you.

3. **Declare "I'm Not Going Back":** Make a verbal declaration over specific areas where your past is trying to pull you back. Speak it out loud daily: "I'm not going back to _____."
4. **Trust the Unseen:** Make a list of areas where you can't see God moving. Pray over this list daily, thanking God that He's working in the unseen realm on your behalf.
5. **Break Free from Miserable Security:** If you're living in miserable security, take one concrete step this week toward the uncertain future God is calling you to. Share your step with someone who will hold you accountable.

Memory Verse -

"Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 3:13-14 (NKJV)

Closing Prayer

Lord, we declare that we are free to walk in Your favor. We refuse to go back to the places, habits, and mindsets You've called us out of. Break the power of every temptation and chain from our past. Help us stay rooted in Your Word and passionate in our praise. We trust that You are working in the unseen realm, moving people and circumstances into place for our breakthrough. We choose to press forward, believing that favor will open the next door You have for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.