



## **The Favor Effect- Pt. 9**

Pastor Ron Carpenter Jr. | Redemption Church

### **MESSAGE SUMMARY**

In this message, Pastor Ron continues the series *The Favor Effect* by shifting from inspiration into challenge. While favor includes the unexplainable goodness of God, it is often released on the other side of obedience. Many of us are only one or two instructions away from breakthrough - but those instructions require surrender.

Using the story of Ruth and Naomi, Pastor Ron introduces the idea of “The Second Yes.” The first yes is accepting Jesus as Savior, but the second yes is making Him Lord - laying down our plans, desires, and control to follow His voice. True alignment with God requires removing idols, rejecting cultural independence, and trusting that God is orchestrating something far greater than what we can see. Favor flows not just from belief, but from full surrender.

**KEY SCRIPTURES:** Ruth 3:3-5, Luke 9:23, Psalm 19:12-13, Revelation 3:15-16

### **DISCUSSION POINTS & QUESTIONS**

#### **1. FAVOR AND THE POWER OF INSTRUCTION**

Favor is not just random blessing - it often follows obedience. While sowing and reaping is a principle we can control, favor is when God steps in and does what we cannot. Many times, breakthrough is waiting on the other side of a simple instruction. In Ruth’s story, everything changed when she chose to follow Naomi’s voice.

#### **Questions:**

What is the difference between sowing/reaping and the favor of God? How have you seen both at work in your life?

Pastor Ron said, “Some of you are one or two instructions away from breakthrough.” Does anything come to mind that God has been prompting you to do?

Why do you think obedience can sometimes feel more difficult than believing?

## **2. THE SECOND YES: FROM SAVIOR TO LORD**

The first yes is receiving Jesus as Savior - accepting what He has done for you. The second yes is making Him Lord - surrendering your life to Him. This is where many believers stop short. True fulfillment comes not just from being saved, but from being aligned with God's will.

### **Questions:**

How would you explain the difference between Jesus as Savior and Jesus as Lord?

Have you ever experienced tension between your plans and what you sensed God was asking of you? What did you do?

Pastor Ron said, "You can be successful but not significant." What do you think that means?

## **3. ANOINT YOURSELF: SURRENDER AND REMOVE IDOLS**

To "anoint yourself" means to lay down your desires, plans, and idols in exchange for God's will. Idols today are not statues - they are the versions of God we create in our minds to fit our lifestyle. True surrender requires letting God define truth, not us.

### **Questions:**

What are some modern "idols" people create in their minds about God?

Have you ever found yourself accepting parts of God's Word while resisting others? Why is that dangerous?

What would it look like for you personally to fully surrender your plans to God?

## **4. GOD IS DOING MORE THAN YOU CAN SEE**

Ruth thought she was just trying to survive - but God was positioning her in the lineage of Jesus. In the same way, we often only see the problem in front of us, while God is orchestrating something much bigger. Our "yes" impacts more than just our present - it affects generations.

### **Questions:**

Can you think of a time when you later realized God was doing more than you understood in the moment?

How does knowing God sees the bigger picture change your perspective on current challenges?

What might be on the other side of your obedience that you cannot yet see?

## CONCLUSION & CHALLENGE

Favor is not just about what God does for us - it is about what He can do through us when we fully surrender. The "second yes" is where alignment happens, where purpose becomes clear, and where favor begins to flow in deeper ways. Like Ruth, we may only see what's in front of us, but God is writing a much bigger story.

The question is not whether God has a plan - it's whether we will trust Him enough to say yes again.

**PERSONAL CHALLENGE:** This week, choose 1-2 action steps to implement

1. **Say Your Second Yes:** Identify one area where you've been holding back from full surrender and consciously give it to God this week.
2. **Follow the Instruction:** Write down anything you feel God has been prompting you to do - and take one step of obedience.
3. **Evaluate Your Alignment:** Ask yourself honestly - Is Jesus truly Lord in my daily decisions, or just Savior in my beliefs?
4. **Remove an Idol:** Identify one mindset or assumption you've held about God that may not align with His Word.
5. **Seek Wise Counsel:** Reach out to a mentor or trusted leader and invite honest input into your life.

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." – Luke 9:23

### **PRAYER:**

Father, thank You for Your goodness and Your favor that works in ways we cannot explain. We acknowledge that You are not only our Savior, but You are Lord. Give us the courage to say yes again - to lay down our plans, our desires, and our control. Reveal any idols or assumptions we have created in our hearts and align us fully with Your truth. Teach us to trust that what You are building is far greater than what we can see. Strengthen us to follow Your instructions with humility and faith. We surrender again today, believing that Your way is better. In Jesus' name, Amen.