



Pastor Ron Carpenter | Redemption Church  
April 19, 2026

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

### The Favor of God: The Threshing Floor

#### KEY SCRIPTURES

- Ruth 3:1–11
- Galatians 6:7–9
- Zechariah 4:10
- Psalm 1:1–4
- 2 Corinthians 6:11–18; 7:1

#### SERMON SUMMARY

This message continues the theme of **the favor of God**, showing how favor and grace are often interchangeable - both are undeserved acts of God that cannot be earned or explained.

While God has established the principle of sowing and reaping, favor operates outside of that system. It is God stepping in and doing what only He can do.

Through the life of Ruth, we see that **favor is often released on the other side of obedience to instruction**. Naomi gives Ruth very specific, even uncomfortable instructions that position her for a life-changing encounter with Boaz - a picture of Christ.

Before Ruth steps into favor, she must go through preparation:

- **Wash yourself** → Let go of your past
- **Anoint yourself** → Embrace consecration and purpose
- **Put on your best garment** → Step into a new identity
- **Go to the threshing floor** → Allow God to refine and separate

The **threshing floor** becomes the central picture of this message. It represents a place of spiritual refinement where God separates what is valuable from what is not. It is uncomfortable, but necessary.



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God uses these seasons not to harm us, but to remove anything that would hinder what He wants to do through us. Both **sins of the flesh** (visible) and **sins of the spirit** (hidden attitudes like pride, jealousy, and bitterness) must be dealt with.

Ultimately, before stepping into greater favor, God prepares us by **removing mixture** and calling us to live set apart.

## KEY THEMES & TAKEAWAYS

### 1. Favor Is Not Earned—But It Is Positioned For

- Favor is an act of God, not a result of effort
- But obedience puts you in position to receive it

### 2. Obedience Unlocks Favor

- Ruth's simple response: *"All that you say to me, I will do"*
- Partial obedience delays what full obedience unlocks

### 3. Don't Carry Your Past Into Your Future

- "Wash yourself" = remove the residue of what you've been through
- You can't step into new seasons with old mindsets

### 4. Consecration Often Comes With Isolation

- God may separate you to prepare you
- Isolation is not rejection - it's refinement

### 5. You Are Called to Be Different (Set Apart)

- You are salt and light - meant to change environments, not blend into them
- Compromise often comes from a desire to belong

### 6. The Threshing Floor Is Necessary

- A place where God separates:



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- Wheat (what He can use)
- Chaff (what must go)
- Not every hard season is the enemy - some are God refining you

### 7. God Deals With Both External and Internal Issues

- Sins of the flesh are visible
- Sins of the spirit (pride, jealousy, bitterness) are hidden but just as dangerous

### 8. Holiness Means Separation

- Not perfection - but being set apart
- A continual process of becoming more like Christ

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Understanding the Message

1. How would you define the difference between **favor** and **sowing/reaping** in your own words?
2. Why do you think favor often follows **obedience to instruction**?
3. What stood out to you most about Ruth's preparation before meeting Boaz?

### Personal Reflection

4. What does it look like in your life to “wash yourself” from the past?
5. Have you experienced a season of isolation? How might God have been using it?
6. Is there an area where you feel God is asking you to be set apart or different?

### The Threshing Floor

7. What might be some “chaff” in your life that God is trying to remove?
8. How can you tell the difference between spiritual attack and spiritual refinement?
9. Why do you think we resist the threshing floor process?



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## Heart Check

10. Which is harder to deal with personally—sins of the flesh or sins of the spirit? Why?

11. Are there hidden attitudes (pride, jealousy, offense, etc.) that God may be addressing?

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- **Identify the Instruction**

Ask: *What is God currently telling me to do?* Then commit to full obedience.

- **Let Go of the Past**

Make a conscious decision not to carry old wounds, labels, or identities forward.

- **Embrace Consecration**

Be willing to stand out, even if it means standing alone.

- **Submit to the Process**

Instead of resisting hard seasons, ask: *What is God refining in me?*

- **Do a Heart Inventory**

Regularly check for hidden attitudes that don't reflect Christ.

## PRAYER FOCUS

- Ask God to reveal anything that needs to be removed
- Surrender to the refining process
- Pray for strength to obey even when it's uncomfortable
- Declare readiness for the favor God wants to release