

RIGHT IN THE EYE

PART 6: Ruthie and Bo Save Christmas

INTRODUCTION

The book of Judges records God's chosen people doing what they want, when they want, with whom they want. The tragedy was that ancient Israel began with divine intervention and a divine mandate. They were to show the world who God was by being different than the nations around them. But for three hundred years they lived in a cycle of disobedience, disaster, and deliverance. The entire time Israel was ping-ponging back and forth from obedience to disobedience, during an era when everyone did what was right in his or her own eyes, God was up to something else—he was decorating for Christmas.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is one of your favorite family Christmas traditions? Why is it special to you?
2. Why do you think it's so difficult for people to recognize the connection between disobedience and disaster in their own lives?
3. Read Ruth 1:15-19. What reasons may God have had to include Ruth—a woman who wasn't even from the nation of Israel—in his plans for the first Christmas?
4. Read Ruth 2:10-23. What characteristics do Boaz and Ruth have in common? In what ways do those characteristics reflect their willingness to yield to God's will?
5. During the message, Andy describes Jesus as *"a king who would leverage his power for the powerless."* How does that statement differ from what we usually expect of kings? What does it say about what and *who* God values?
6. What is one area of your life about which you need to declare to God, *"I no longer want to do what is right in my eyes. I'm ready to do what is right in your eyes."* How can this group help you to follow through on that declaration?

MOVING FORWARD

It took God hundreds of years to prepare for the first Christmas. A simple decision could make this your best Christmas. There is no better offer and there is no better time or season to put your faith in Jesus as your Savior and yield to him as your king. All you have to do is declare, *"I no longer want to do what is right in my eyes. I'm ready to do what is right in your eyes."*

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."

Ruth 2:12