

# THE COST OF MERCY: HESED IN ALL OF LIFE

## Ruth 2

*When God calls you to himself, he also calls you to be a servant, an instrument in his redeeming hands. All of his children are called into ministry, and each of them needs the daily intervention this ministry provides. If you followed the Lord for a thousand years, you would still need the ministry of the body of Christ as much as you did the day you first believed. This need will remain until our sanctification is complete in Glory. . . . God uses people, who are themselves in need of change, as instruments of the same kind of change in others.*

**Paul David Tripp, *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*, xi**

Hesed is a Hebrew word that expresses, far better than any English translation, the essence of life in relationship—in covenant—with God. This single word incorporates all of our concepts of faithfulness, steadfast love, kindness, mercy, loyalty, and sacrifice into one. As you can see, is not easily translated into English. The theme of hesed is first introduced in 1:8 when Naomi asks for God's kindness (hesed) to fall upon Ruth and Orpah. It is applied to Ruth directly in 3:10. But throughout the book (not just in these places), Ruth and Boaz are raised up as walking definitions of hesed for God's covenant people.

- I. **THE EXTENT:** *Hesed* transforms every aspect in all of life.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- II. **THE COST:** Only a worthless Christianity remains confined to the personal sphere leaving the world unaffected; *hesed* comes at a cost.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- III. **THE FUND:** God Himself is the fuel that powers a world-changing *hesed* in His people.