

Can Gleaning be Transformative Today?

Ruth 2:1-13, 17-21; Leviticus 19:9-10; 23:22; Deut. 24:19-22

Have you had any gleaning experiences?

What are your thoughts about the Ruth, Naomi and Boaz story?

Principles of gleaning:

1. Gleaning is first and foremost about _____.
2. God is concerned with the _____.
3. God supplies enough for _____.
4. God expects us to be _____.
5. Gleaning is the responsibility of both_____ & _____.
6. Gleaning is generally not a _____.
7. Gleaning leads to _____.
8. Gleaning is an example of God's type of _____.

Any creative ideas that we can use to promote gleaning today?

So some questions:

What can the principles of gleaning teach us about caring for the poor in our communities today?

How can we get unstuck from our economic system and be more generous?

Can businesses find ways to run them selves so that their employees and everyone around them experiences shalom as their return on investment extends beyond the company?

How can we be like Boaz, who got people to notice the dignity of gleaners?

What can gleaning teach us about how to be thankful and share the Creators blessings?

Various quotes for thought and discussion from the article titled: **The Gleaners Edge** by Bruce Baker and Tom Parks from Christianity Today, July / August, p. 29-34

“Run your business such that everyone around you experiences shalom.”

“Neither surplus nor an agricultural context is required for the principles of gleaning to be applied to contemporary businesses.”

“Modern business practices are not as efficient as we like to believe.”

“Gleaning asks us to reflect upon the purpose of work and business in the marketplace.”

“Christian communities can be slow to realize how using their resources in practical ways can influence (their) communities.”

“People see it's not just about tithing but using other resources to be creative in responding to social issues.”

“Creative economic structures founded in gleaning reveal biblical principles can provide new opportunities for transformation.”

“Through gleaning, followers of God create new economic systems and practices built around relationships.”

Gleaning, in the biblical sense, appears to have at least these five key components:

1. establishing shared spaces.
2. inviting people from the margins into these shared spaces.
3. cultivating transformation in those spaces by confronting cycles of injustice.
4. allowing incarnational relational in transform employees and the company.
5. allowing the company and its people to transform its stakeholders and thereby the greater community.