

Gaines Congregational United Church of Christ

November 10, 2024

Old Testament Reading; Ruth 3: 1-5; 4: 13-17

Responsive Reading: Psalm 127

Epistle Reading; Hebrews 9: 24-28

Gospel Reading: Mark 12: 38-44

Sermon:

Relax, I Know a Guy

By Rev. Jim Gardner

Summary: Don't sweat the small stuff, and with God, everything is small stuff.

Did you ever get yourself into a predicament and think that it was something really serious and then a friend says to you, relax, I know a guy? Like that old dead tree near the end of your driveway blows down in a windstorm and blocks your driveway. It does not cause any damage, but you figure it will cost a fortune to get it removed. Then your neighbor to the south of you says, "Relax I know a guy that sells firewood. He will cut it up and remove it for you and all he will charge is the price of the gas for his chain saw." Wow, even with the price of

gas this is a Godsend. You get the tree cut up and he even cuts off the stump level so you can put a garden gnome on it that will look like it is guarding your drive.

The next day your granddaughter, who is learning to drive, backs your new car into the stump. She is not hurt but the fender is crinkled, and the taillight is broken. You try not to look mad but think that this accident will go on your record and your insurance will go up. Then the Cop who lives on the north side of you says, “Hold on it is not that bad. That was your car and your tree stump on your property. Nobody was hurt and no public property was damaged. You do not even need to report it. What’s more I know a guy; He does bodywork on antique cars and is really good. He owes me a favor so I’m sure he will fix it up for you for the cost of parts and a gift certificate for him and his wife to eat at Applebee’s.” “I know a guy!”

Sometimes it is really good to “Know a guy”. When Naomi was concerned about Ruth’s welfare she said, “I know a guy named Boaz, who is a relative and I know how to set you up so that he will marry you and you will not have to live in poverty.” Not only did Naomi know a guy, but a guy also knew her. That same guy knows every one of us, and we know Him.

Need a hint as to who I’m talking about?

Well, our Psalm lesson lays it out for us quite clearly.

“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.” Yup, the “guy” is the Lord.

It was the Lord that caused the famine to be over so Naomi would return. It was the Lord that caused Ruth to “just happen” to glean in the fields owned by Boaz. It was the Lord that caused the relative of first choice to refuse to marry Ruth. It was the Lord that was “the guy”.

Did you ever stop to think what the widow in our gospel was thinking when she put into the treasury two small coins that were all that she had to live on?

I think that she was thinking, “I know a guy who is worthy of every last cent that I have and more also.” AND, I know what I think. I think that guy took care of that widow even if she never asked Him to! That’s the guy I know.

Did you ever stop and think of all “the guy” moments that happened in the Bible?

Can you imagine the Hebrew people screaming at Moses, “Moses what are we to do, if we go forward, we will drown in the Red Sea but if we don’t, we will be slaughtered by the army of Pharaoh?” To which Moses raised his empty left hand to the people and said, “Relax” and then raised his staff with his right hand over the Red Sea and said, “I know a guy!” Or, the time

the people were whining, we are going to die of thirst. Don't you even care? To which Moses said, "Relax, I know a guy" and then sharply struck a solid rock with his staff and the people had all the fresh water they would need for the next leg of their incredible journey. Yeah, he knew a guy.

What about the woman who had a bleeding problem that plagued her for twelve years. She said, "I know a guy, and if I can even touch the hem of His robe I will be healed." She did, and she was. Or the soldier at the foot of the cross that said, "This indeed was the Son of God." And now this Roman soldier knew a guy.

This is not just ancient history that does not apply now. This is the guy who is the Alpha and the Omega. This is the guy who is, and was, and always will be, even to the end of the age, "guy."

Are you afraid the wrong person was elected President? Well, I know a guy that holds that guy in His Holy hands. Are you afraid for those in the Middle east or the Ukraine? Well Relax, WE know a guy. Are you afraid for a loved one that has crossed that final bridge? Well, relax we know a guy who has conquered death.

As our Epistle says, "For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us!"

Relax, “ We know a guy!” Hallelujah and Amen!