

**Transforming Daily**  
**“ . . kept some back . . . ”**  
*Ruth 2:14*

In right context, this phrase refers to Ruth’s conduct. After she had found favor in the eyes of Boaz, and received from him protection and provision, she ate of the bread alongside the reapers (a woman among men in that day not heard of). The Bible said she ate and was satisfied and then “kept some back. Why did she keep some back? For whom did she keep some back? Was she being selfish and greedy? Quite the contrary, she had her mother-in-law Naomi in mind when she kept some back.

I remember while growing up my mother would always tell my brother, sister and I to share, but also “save some for a rainy day.” My mother grew up as a foster child on the island of Oahu in a town called Kahuku. She knows what it’s like not to have anything except for the bare necessities and sometimes those had to be shared (she was 11 when they bombed her island at Pearl Harbor, and remembers it quite distinctly). Her point was for us not to be greedy, but to think ahead and invest, so that when tough times came, financial or otherwise, we would have something to fall back on.

If there is a single flaw regarding the people of the United States of America today, and for the last several decades, it is the extreme obsession for gaining, amassing, and greedily holding on to wealth and the status of success associated with it. It is killing us from the inside out. Greed and the “un-magnificent” obsession to “get all you can, can all you get, sit on the can, and poison the rest,” is single handedly responsible for the breakdown of marriages, and subsequently, families, as well as the socio-economic conditions we are now experiencing. Whatever happened to moderation and morality? In many cases today, you won’t even find it in the church (oops, stopped preachin’ and gone to medlin’).

What if just the individuals in a local church began to serve one another without the motive or desire to receive anything in return? What if the local church seriously sought after God’s will for His will’s sake with the intention of receiving nothing in return? I often say that if everyone seeks to serve, then all will be served, but if each one seeks to be served, no one will be served. Christians above everyone else ought to be shining in the times of darkness, abounding in the times of want, confident in times of uncertainty. This discipline can only exist because in times of plenty we kept some back.