

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: *Ruth* – verse by verse

Scripture(s) for Today: Ruth 1:6-22 – the LORD visits His people in Bethlehem; Naomi returns

Today's Message:

"Back to Bethlehem"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we introduced the book of Ruth. We saw a certain man make a tragic decision not to trust God and move away from the place of God's blessing (*Bethlehem*). He led his wife and two sons to the cursed country of Moab. By the time we arrived at verse 5, we had already seen three deaths! Today, we will witness Naomi's **RESPONSE** to this great tragedy. She will hear how the LORD has visited His people in giving them **BREAD**. Now, that is very interesting because Bethlehem (*the place of blessing*) means "*house of BREAD*"! If only they had waited on God. Nevertheless, she will move in the right direction. And we will see the loving devotion of Ruth who will be *steadfastly* **MINDED** to go with her!

LEARNING TOGETHER

A. The Text Ruth 1:6-22

#1. *The Petition* – Naomi urges her daughters in law to **RETURN** home. (6-15)

- *With her husband and sons now dead, Naomi begs the ladies to care for themselves.*
 - ✓ **WHAT HAPPENED**
 - Naomi **heard** of God's provision in Bethlehem; she decided to **RETURN!**
 - Naomi **pleaded** with her daughters in law to go to their own people.
 - After **counting the cost**, Orpah went back to **her PEOPLE** and **her GODS**.
 - ✓ **COMPARING SCRIPTURES**
 - "*Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell...thou shalt be fed.*" **Ps 37:3**
 - "*... I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*" **Ps 37:25**
 - "*... And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey...*" **Deut 30:1-10**
 - "*If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother...*" **Luke 14:26**

NOTE There comes a place in life when *feelings* about God must become *actions* of doing.

#2. *The Prayer* – Ruth pleads and is *steadfastly* **MINDED** to go with her. (16-18)

- *Although Orpah was persuaded to go home, Ruth was insistent to stay with Naomi.*
 - ✓ **WHAT HAPPENED**
 - Ruth **CLAVE** unto Naomi and was **resolute** in her decision. **Gen 22:3; Acts 17:34**

2022 VISION: *This is our time!*
Making disciples and caring for souls!

Ruth would not choose:

- her **way**...
- her **dwelling place**...
- her **companions**...
- her **own gods**...
- her **place of burial**...

- *"Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee..."*
- *"For **whither thou goest**, I will go; and **where thou lodgest**, I will lodge..."*
- *"**Thy people shall be my people**..."*
- *"**And thy God my God**..."*
- *"**Where thou diest**, will I die, and there will I be buried..."*
- *"The LORD do so to me, and more also, **if ought but death part thee and me**..."*
- Naomi saw that she was **steadfastly minded** to go with her.

✓ **COMPARING SCRIPTURES**

- *"By faith Abraham... **he went out**, not knowing whither he went." **Heb 11:8***
- *"... he trembling and astonished... **Lord**, what wilt thou have me to do?" **Acts 9:6***
- *"Father, if thou be willing...nevertheless **not my will, but thine, be done**." **Lk22:42***

NOTE Ruth shows us the heart of a true disciple; ready, not only to take all, but to give all.

#3. The Return – the 2 went together until them came to BETHLEHEM. (19-22)

➤ *Many people were interested in knowing what was going on; some were genuine.*

✓ **WHAT HAPPENED**

- All the city was **MOVED** about them – *and they said, Is this Naomi?*
- Naomi said to call her **MARA** – *for the Almighty hath dealt very **bitterly** with me.*
- They came to Bethlehem in *the beginning of barley **HARVEST**. **2Sam 21:1,9***

✓ **COMPARING SCRIPTURES**

- *"... they came to **Marah**, they could not drink of the waters... **bitter**..." **Ex 15:23***
- *"... three days' journey... unto Elim... **twelve fountains of water**..." **Num 33:8-9***
- *"... weeping may endure for a night, **but joy cometh in the morning**." **Ps 30:5***

NOTE These two women have endured through much weeping and grief; joy is coming!

B. The Lessons (How can you apply this message to your life?)

1. *When a backslider sets his face resolutely towards God again, others will **FOLLOW**.*

❖ **Question:** *Have you gone astray? Who is watching you? family, friends, peers? **2Cor3:3***

2. *You should be **RESOLVED** to no longer linger in sin but to give all for Jesus Christ.*

❖ **Question:** *Are you devoted to God as Ruth and the Philadelphian Church? **Gal 2:20***

3. *Your life should **INSPIRE** others to join with your people and serve your God.*

❖ **Question:** *Who are you inspiring, discipling, inviting to trust your God? **Acts 17:34***

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