

Ruth 02 – Repentance?? - Ruth 1:6-18

We met our THREE key characters in our 1st msg  
Boaz - Naomi - Ruth

Today, we're going to see a REAL Comparison (or Contrast)  
Involving TWO of our Key Characters - NAOMI & RUTH . . .

AND - another MINOR character who quickly drops off the scene  
just like we saw Elimelech do last week

Today - the QUESTION is - REPENTANCE??  
Meaning - ***IS THAT Genuine Repentance??***

we're going to see Three "PICTURES" of Repentance  
in our Text Today

& ONLY ONE of them we would say was  
TRUE (or Genuine) Repentance

& it's important because we see many different  
LEVELS or APPROACHES to Repentance today - ***Don't we?***

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So - before we see our THREE Different "PICTURES"  
of Repentance today

Let's get a Grasp on what GENUINE REPENTANCE IS:

The Definition we are most familiar with is: ***A Turning Away FROM Sin, and a Turning TO God***

Holman Bible Dictionary - ***Repentance [is] a deeply seated and thorough turning from self to God.***

**New Dictionary of Biblical Theology: Repentance [is] the turning away from those actions and attitudes that are offensive to God and his nature. It includes the confession of sin, accompanied by mourning and regret. Often expressed as 'turning back' to God,**

Repentance **Always** involves

**CONFESSION** of Sin

**REMORSE** for your Sin - &

**ACKNOWLEDGING** your need for God's **Forgiveness**

**GENUINE Repentance** is **FAR more** just "**Going Thru the Motions**"

**King David** - in his Famous **Psalm** of **Repentance** - **Psa 51**. . .

**Realized** that "**Going thru the Motions**" - **WITHOUT** a Complete **Change of Heart** - was **WORTHLESS** to God

**Psalm 51:16–17 (ESV)**

***16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.***

***17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.***

**Genuine Repentance** involves:

A **Complete** - **All In** - **Covenant Commitment**

to Turn **FROM** Sin - & Turn **TO** God - With **Everything** in you

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& **today** we're going to see **THREE** "**Pictures**" of people **TURNING** - or **RE-TURNING** - to God

One's Repentance is - is **NON-EXISTENT**

One's Repentance is - is **QUESTIONABLE**

One's Repentance - **Opens the Flood-Gates of Heaven** . . .

for God to **pour out Blessings** we will continue to **see** -  
**throughout** the **rest** of this book - And **into Eternity!!**

& so **Today** - I'm going to **ask US**  
to **Consider** our **OWN Level** - of **Repentance**

Is it **NON-EXISTENT?**

Is it **QUESTIONABLE ?**

**or Will it OPEN the Flood-Gates of Heaven** . . .

& **Allow** God to **Pour out His Blessings** of His **Mercy** & **Grace**  
into **our lives** . . . all the way **into Eternity**

## **Let's Pray**

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Last week - we **left Naomi** - "**Holding the Bag**" of her &  
her husband's "**Turning AWAY from God**"

They had **chased** the "**Grass is Greener**" **syndrome** into the  
**Ungodly** world of **MOAB** - Running **FROM** God - & **INTO** Sin

Their **2 sons** had married **Moabite women**,  
**Who**, by their **Culture** - were **far away** from God

& **then** - What we might call a "**CONSEQUENCE**" occurred  
**Naomi's Husband** & both her **Sons** - **DIED**

**Leaving Naomi** & her Moabite **Daughters-in-law** to **fend** for  
**themselves** - which was **generally impossible** in that culture

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& Then - at some point - Naomi heard - the Famine in Israel was over  
& suddenly she was "MOTIVATED" to Return to the Lord

### Ruth 1:6 (esv)

*6 Then she (Naomi) arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the Lord had visited his people and given them food.*

The tables had turned - Now Naomi was Stuck in The Fields of MOAB  
& the Lord was Blessing His people in ISRAEL

& suddenly - Naomi Decides she needs to RETURN to the Lord  
& to His people in Bethlehem

The word Translated "RETURN" here . . .

is the SAME Hebrew Word Translated "REPENT"  
Because to Repent means - to RETURN to the Lord

& so here (in some way) is a picture of a "Repenting" Naomi  
- She desires to RETURN to the Lord

But GENUINE Repentance requires a True CHANGE of HEART  
It's a Turning of All that we ARE - Away From Sin, & To God

Was THAT the condition of Naomi's heart ??

Had she acknowledged her sin - & did she have a Wholehearted  
Desire to Return - to a Right Relationship with the Lord . . . OR

Was it because she heard there was EASY FOOD there ??  
*And she knew Israel took care of its Widows*

**YES** - Naomi is **RETURNING** to the Lord

**YES** - this is “**Kind-Of**” a **Picture** of **Repentance** . . .

**BUT** - Do you sense **GENUINE REPENTANCE**, or **NOT** ?

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So - **Naomi AROSE** - with her **daughters-in-law**  
to **RETURN to the Lord** - maybe with **Questionable Motives**

**Ruth 1:7 (esv)**

***7 So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.***

**Now** - Here’s an **interesting** thing

It was **custom** in the **East** (& I believe it still is) - to make a **parting**  
“**On the Road**” - **not at the door** of a house **like** we **would**

So **Naomi’s Daughters-in-Law** both “**Went on the Way**” with her

But **at this point** - we **don’t know** if it’s just to **say good-bye** -  
**or if** they are **RETURNING** to the **Lord** with her

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But **we find** out soon **enough** - as **Naomi STOPS** on the road  
to **Address** these **two women**

At **this point** - **all THREE** women are **Moving toward**  
**RETURNING** to the Lord

**Like when** you see a **thousand people** walk **down** front  
at a **Large Crusade** - all **moving** in the **same direction**

**Ruth 1:8-9(a) (esv)**

**8 But Naomi** (stopping on the road) **said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each of you to her mother’s house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead** (their deceased husbands) **and with me.**

**9 The Lord grant that you may find rest** (security), **each of you in the house of her** (new) **husband!” . . .**

**Naomi** is (in some way) **RETURNING** to the Lord . . .

But **IF** She really **HAD** that Real **Covenant Relationship** with the Lord **wouldn’t** she have **Encouraged** her **daughters** - to **RETURN** w/ her

She **Did LOVE** them - She **wanted** what was **best** for them -  
But **she encouraged** them to **STAY** in a land **FAR** from God

She **encouraged** them to **TURN AWAY** from the **TRUE GOD**  
& **go back** to **worshipping** their **FALSE GODS** in MOAB  
& **hopefully** find **NEW Husbands**

Naomi **LOVED** her **Daughters-in-Law** - She just **didn’t have** the **FAITH** in the Lord, to **Encourage** them to **RETURN** with her

**That’s LIKE** a person who says: **Yeah - I’m goin to Church for the wife & kids - but you bro, - you gotta stay in the world & party hardy for BOTH us man . . .**

**I gotta do the “Church Thing” you know**  
**But it’s better for you to stay in the world - & maybe go to Hell**

**Listen** - if **you’re** a **FRIEND** like **THAT** to somebody  
then **they Don’t NEED** an **ENEMY**

**Cause** that’s **CRAZY TALK** to someone you **CARE ABOUT**

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So - Naomi says they should STAY in the World - Away from God

& so we read in Ruth 1:9(b)-10 (esv)

*9 . . . Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.*

*10 And they said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.”*

That’s like someone saying to you

No, I really WANT to go to Church with you . . .

I Really want to change my life too

I want to TURN to the Lord TOO

Look at the end of v.10 - we will return with you to your people  
Come on - Let us Turn to the Lord with you - Pleassee !

& Notice again the word RETURN in v.10

This is a Critical Word in Repentance . . . to RETURN to the Lord

ALL TURNING TO the Lord - Is a RETURN to the God who Made you  
& the God who Loves you

Naomi was the MOST “Returning”

because she had (presumably) walked with the Lord before

But these two Moabite women ALSO had a chance here  
to RETURN to the One True God . . .

to leave behind their gods of Moab

& commit themselves wholly & completely to the God of Heaven

But they were gonna have to do it - AGAINST the counsel  
of our “SEMI-REPENTING” Naomi

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& so she continues 'Working Them' with Logic . . .

**Ruth 1:11-13(a) (esv)**

***11 But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands?"***

***12 Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons,***

***13 would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? . . .***

**MAN** Naomi - can you **PLEASE JOIN** God in His **PLAN** here ??

**Naomi** is referring to a **Law of Israel** called **LEVIRATE MARRIAGE**

Which **required** the **brother** of a **deceased husband**  
to **MARRY** the widow - & to **continue** the **blood line**

& so **Naomi** - Or, as **J. Vernon McGee** calls her  
**LITTLE MERRY SUNSHINE** . . .

**Little Merry Sunshine** is just **telling these Girls** - Look,  
there's **NO HOPE** in **Retuning** to the **LORD in Israel** with Her . . .

**Cause** she **can't** have any **more sons** that they could **marry**

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& **right here** - we **catch** what might be  
**another** one of **Naomi's** underlying Motives

**See** - these **Moabite women** - will be **DETESTED** in Israel  
**Israel hated**, the **MOABITES**



& so Naomi (*Little Merry Sunshine*) may be saying . . .

LOOK, You're gonna be HATED in Israel -  
you're never gonna get married there . . .

so why not go back to your OLD Life - & do the best you can

PLUS - there's just one other little PERSONAL thing . . .

See - It was also against the Law of Moses  
for the men of Israel to MARRY women OUTSIDE Israel

& so - Naomi knew - when she came traipsing into town with  
TWO Moabite Daughter's-in-law . . .

*she was gonna have some SPLAININ to do !!*

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I'm kinda giving Naomi a Bad Rap here  
& she IS going to be used by God - for GOOD - in the story

But right here - she is a MESS spiritually -  
& She is NOT our picture of GENUINE REPENTANCE

& we see her True Condition of her heart - at the end of V.13

Ruth 1:13(b) (esv)

*13 . . . No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me."*

Genuine Repentance requires CONFESSION of OUR sin  
(means we AGREE with God - what we've done is SIN)

& it Requires REMORSE  
over being SEPARATED from God - BY your sin

& Naomi displays - NEITHER here - -

The translation of this Vs is Difficult - & the NLT does a Good Job

### Ruth 1:13(b) (NLT)

*13 . . . Things are far more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord himself has raised his fist against me."*

THAT is "Little Merry Sunshine's" True heart condition

*Things are far more bitter for me than for you,  
because the Lord himself has raised his fist against me*

Have you ever known anybody who BLAMES the LORD  
for the Consequences of their own SIN ??

*Man - Why did the God take my family & everything I had  
while I was drunk for those 15 years ?*

*Man - Why did God let my wife leave me,  
I was just messin around with a few other women??*

Sometimes we blame God - for the Consequences of our own Sin  
& it seems like Naomi is doing that here

This is NOT a Genuinely Repentant heart

Naomi DOES eventually get into a "Right Place" with God  
& she does "Walk by FAITH" before the book is finished

But here - She's NOT our Prime Example - of Genuine Repentance  
*Can you see that ??*

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So - Naomi is making this REALLY HARD on her Daughters-in-Law

& **Now** - - It's **TIME** for **each** of these Girls  
to make **THEIR OWN CHOICE** about **RETURNING** to the Lord

**Remember** - the **Daughters** are named - **ORPAH** & **RUTH**

**Ruth 1:14 (esv)**

***14 Then they (all 3) lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.***

The word "**KISSED**" is - as in "**Kissed Good-Bye**"

**ORPAH** Made her **choice** - She had **started out**  
on the **Road to Returning** to the Lord

**Like someone** who **goes down** front at a **Crusade with a Friend**

**BUT** - She had been **CONVINCED OTHERWISE**  
**The LOGIC** of the "**Things of this World**" - **CONVINCED HER**

& She **Kisses Naomi** goodbye  
& **she turns her back** on the **House of God**

& **her place** in the **Plan of God** is Done - **She's chosen**  
to **TURN AWAY** from the Lord - & **go back** to the **World**

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**But RUTH** . . . is a **DIFFERENT STORY**  
**V.14** says Ruth **CLUNG** to Naomi

This is the **SAME** Hebrew **WORD** used in the **famous Marriage** vs -

**Gen 2:24** - ***Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and CLEAVE to his wife, - - (Same Word)***

Same ROOT word used in Deut when Moses is calling Israel into a Covenant Relationship with God He says

### Deuteronomy 10:20 (ESV)

*20 You shall fear the Lord your God. You shall serve him and hold fast (CLEAVE) to him . . .*

THIS is a Serious Word - Ruth is:

CLEAVING to NAOMI -

CLEAVING to Naomi's PEOPLE

CLEAVING to Naomi's GOD

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& Ruth is about to get a chance to CONFIRM her Commitment  
When Naomi challenges her - AGAIN

### Ruth 1:15 (esv)

*15 And she (Naomi) said (to Ruth) , “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.”*

*Really Naomi - you're kidding me right?*

Do you not get it? Ruth wants to be SAVED

She wants to be PART of God's Plan

& Ruth is gonna make her COVENANT COMMITMENT

Incredibly CLEAR - - Right Now

### Ruth 1:16 (esv)

*16 But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you . . .*

The word LEAVE - means - To ABANDON

**These two women are on a long road - ALONE  
ORPAH'S back is fading into the Horizon**

& **Ruth** says - **I WILL NOT Abandon you**  
**I WILL NOT Leave you**  
**I Am ALL IN - With Everything I've got**

**GUESS who our HEROINE EXAMPLE of Genuine Repentance is?**

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& **right here** - in **Vs's 16 & 17** . . .

is **one** of the **Greatest Commitments** in **ALL the Bible**  
of **Following God** - **ALL in**, & with **NO Turning Back**

**THIS** is the **BEST PICTURE** you **can get** . . .

of **Turning From** your **OLD** Life  
& **Committing** to a **Covenant Relationship** with **GOD**

**Ruth 1:16(b)-17 (esv)**

***16 . . . For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.  
17 Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you."***

This is the **strongest possible vow** a person could **make** - -  
**The Hebrew** here shows **ABSOLUTE DETERMINATION**

Where you **GO** - I will **GO**  
Where you **STAY** - I will **STAY**  
**YOUR People** - will be **MY People**  
**YOUR God** - will be **MY God**  
Where you **DIE** - I will **DIE**

& then - the last sentence in V.17 - Is an OATH to God - saying:

May God pout out His JUDGMENT upon me  
if I don't keep this Covenant Commitment

& in that OATH (v.17)- Ruth uses the PERSONAL Name for God  
The name Given to Israel - The COVENANT Name of God

She Uses YAHWEH - MY Lord & My God

RUTH - the Moabite - has just made a COVENANT unto DEATH  
with YAHWEH - Her PERSONAL LORD & GOD

Guys - God is looking for those who will WHOLEHEARTEDLY  
Turn to Him - Leaving ALL else behind - Just Like THIS

& in the Rest of the Book - we'll see the BLESSINGS  
that come from THIS "All In" commitment from Ruth . . .

to Turn Completely FROM her OLD Life -  
& Turn Completely TO God - with NO turning Back

& THAT - is what it Looks Like

When you & I Genuinely TURN from OUR sin  
& Wholeheartedly Surrender OUR Lives to the Lord

*Do you SEE IT ??*

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Unbelievably - Naomi CANNOT bring herself - to Encouragement  
*It must not have been her gift . . .*

## **Ruth 1:18 (esv)**

**18 And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more (she stopped talking).**

**Really Naomi - that's all you got for our HEROINE ??**

That's all you got for one of the most Incredible  
"Statements of Faith" in all the Bible ?? . . . **Really?**

**Scholars compare Ruth's Faith - to Abraham's Faith -  
When he Left HIS Land & HIS People - to Follow God**

& **ALL Naomi** can do - is just "**Quit Talking**"?

I guess **My MOTHER** was **Right** when she said  
***"If you can't say something nice - don't say anything at all"***

**Sometimes** - we have to **make** our "**All In**" **Commitment** to the Lord  
. . . **IN SPITE** of the **Christians** around us

& **THAT'S** what it **seems like Ruth** had to **do** here

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**So** - we've **seen THREE** "**Pictures**" of **Repentance** here

### **1) ORPAH - that's easy**

She **just turned back** to the world - **NO Repentance** at all  
& she **disappears**

### **2) NAOMI - She's walking the fence**

She's in **some kind** of **half-hearted** - **wrong motive** -  
**self seeking** Repentance

Two Vs's later - she asks to have her name changed  
to a name that means BITTERNESS

She is BITTER - & She is in Grave DANGER  
She's TOYING with Repentance - - Not Good

### 3) RUTH - Our Heroine

Ruth Turns FROM her Old Life APART from God - & turns  
completely, & without reservation - TO a Life WITH GOD

& Her Complete - All in - Repentance  
OPENS up Heaven's Flood-Gates . . .

To allow God's Undeserved MERCY & GRACE  
to pour out on her in ways she can't even IMAGINE

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The QUESTION TODAY is  
Which one of these Pictures - is MOST LIKE US

HOW would WE define OUR Repentance - OUR Turning TO God??

Is it NON-EXISTANT ? - You can change that today

Is it WALKING THE FENCE ? - You NEED to change that today

Is it ALL IN, SOLD OUT, COMPLETE SURRENDER

to a Covenant Relationship - with your Personal LORD & SAVIOR

### Isa 55:7 (NLT) Explains Repentance very well

*7 Let the wicked change their ways and banish the very thought of doing wrong. Let them turn to the Lord that he may have mercy on them. Yes, turn to our God, for he will forgive generously.*

Let's Pray