

First Baptist Church – Odessa

Pastor Byron McWilliams

Date: _____

“Returning Home to the Blessings of Bethlehem”

“Christmas Blessings” - Pt. 1

Ruth 1:1-22 & Selected

Christmas Blessings Are Found...

I. When I confront the rebellious decisions I have made.

“In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab.”

Vs. 1

“In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” Judges 21:25

“...those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.” Psalm 34:10b

“But seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” Matthew 6:33

II. When I decide that home is where I should be.

“Then she 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.” Vs. 6

Naomi’s Deliberate Action:

- Was a response to God’s offer of forgiveness.
- Was a reversal of a movement away from God.
- Was a deliberate action to forsake a life gone astray.

III. When I give myself completely to God!

“But Ruth said, ‘Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. 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. 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.’” Vs. 16-17

Ruth’s Complete Commitment Brought a Newness of Life:

- New Determination
- New Direction
- New Dependence
- New Desire
- New Devotion
- New Dedication
- New Destination

IV. When I return to the One who sometimes wounds me but only because He loves me!

“She said to them, ‘Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?’” Vs. 20-21

Naomi’s commitment to God was so deep that even though she saw the Almighty as the cause of the pain in her life, she didn’t run away from Him but ran to Him instead!

“For the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and chastises every son whom He receives.” Hebrews 12:6

V. When I have hope that the best is yet to come when I return home with the Lord!

“And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.”
Vs. 22b