



Small Group Study Questions

Sermon on April 16th, 2023

Ruth 1:6-22 (NASB)

6 Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the land of Moab, because she had heard in the land of Moab that the Lord had visited His people by giving them food. 7 So she departed from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. 8 But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you as you have dealt with the dead and with me. 9 May the Lord grant that you may find a place of rest, each one in the house of her husband." Then she kissed them, and they raised their voices and wept. 10 However, they said to her, "No, but we will return with you to your people." 11 But Naomi said, "Return, my daughters. Why should you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? 12 Return, my daughters! Go, for I am too old to have a husband. If I said I have hope, if I were even to have a husband tonight and also give birth to sons, 13 would you therefore wait until they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters; for it is much more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has come out against me."

14 And they raised their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

15 Then she said, "Behold, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and her gods; return after your sister-in-law." 16 But Ruth said, "Do not plead with me to leave you or to turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you sleep, I will sleep. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. 17 Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord do so to me, and worse, if anything but death separates me from you." 18 When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her about it.

19 So they both went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they had come to Bethlehem, all the city was stirred because of them, and the women said, "Is this Naomi?" 20 But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. 21 I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has testified against me and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

22 So Naomi returned, and with her Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who returned from the land of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

DIGGING DEEPER

What are you most loyal to? Could be a person, brand, movement, etc.

Summarize the first five verses of Ruth 1.

Read Ruth 1:6-9

We aren't told much about how this family functioned, but what can we determine based on what we read?

Is Naomi looking out for her interests, or for the interests of her daughters-in-law? Why or why not?

Read Ruth 1:10-13

The culture of the day was that if a woman's husband died, his brother would then marry the widow to continue the family line. Obviously, in this case, there are going to be no more "brothers" to marry these women. Does Naomi seem to be a woman of hope in these circumstances? Why or why not?

Read Ruth 1:14-18

What kind of impact must Naomi have on Ruth for her to act this way?

Would the way that you act toward others create this kind of determination on their part to not leave you? Is this a way that we should act? Why or why not?

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Ruth 1:19-22

Naomi's name means "pleasant" while Mara means "bitter." Does Naomi have a good reason for this request? What does this tell us about her emotional state?

As we continue to read, this name change doesn't stick and Ruth is said to be by Naomi's side through everything that happens. What does this tell us about Ruth?

How can you show more determined love to those around you this week?

TAKING IT HOME

PRAYER REQUEST

