

MAKING BAD DECISIONS

When Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, Naomi and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. ⁷With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah. ⁸Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the Lord show kindness to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me. ⁹May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband." Then she kissed them and they wept aloud ¹⁰and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people." ¹¹But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? ¹²Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me-- even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons--¹³would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord's hand has gone out against me!" ¹⁴At this they wept again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵"Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her." ¹⁶But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me." ¹⁸When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her. ¹⁹So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?" ²⁰"Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. ²¹I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me." ²²So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.

Ruth 1:6-22 (NIV)

❖ The Consequences of Bad Decisions:

1. The consequences from CHOOSING FEAR over FAITH.

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab.

Ruth 1:1 (NIV)

2. The consequences from CHOOSING COMPROMISE over CONVICTION.

Now Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth.

Ruth 1:3-4a (NIV)

3. The consequences from CHOOSING SEPARATION over COMMUNITY.

After they had been in Moab about 10 years, ⁵both Mahlon & Kilion, her sons, also died and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

❖ The Bad Response from Bad Decisions:

"Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me--even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons--¹³would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord's hand has gone out against me!"

Ruth 1:11-13 (NIV)

1. We SEPARATE OURSELVES due to our bad decisions.

"Return home, my daughters..."

Ruth 1:11a (NIV)

2. We BLAME OTHERS for our bad decisions.

"The Lord's hand has gone out against me!"

Ruth 1:13b (NIV)

3. We BECOME BITTER over our bad decisions.

"Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter."

Ruth 1:20 (NIV)

❖ The Right Response to Disobedience:

But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.¹⁷Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me."

Ruth 1:16-17 (NIV)

1. No matter what, I will choose to do the RIGHT THING.

But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay."

Ruth 1:16a (NIV)

2. Despite all that is against me, I will choose to LIVE by FAITH.

"Your people will be my people and your God my God."

Ruth 1:16b (NIV)

3. Up until my dying days, I will TRUST GOD no matter what.

"Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me."

Ruth 1:17 (NIV)