



Faithful The Story of Ruth

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“A Tale of an Immigrant Family in Moab: God's Faithfulness Incognito”

Ruth 1:1-22

September 22, 2019

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Theme: In Ruth 1, Naomi loses her husband and two sons and decides to return to Israel from Moab. Her daughter-in-law, Ruth, insists on coming with her and commits herself to Naomi and to Naomi's God.

While Naomi expresses her sense of being forsaken by God at the end of chapter 1, we can see glimmers of God's faithfulness across this first chapter of Ruth.

Outline:

1. Wider Context
 - a. Context in the Old Testament: Follows Judges and provides a contrast
 - b. Context behind the Old Testament
 - i. Moab as Israel's enemy (cf. Deut 23:3-6)
 - ii. Women in the Ancient Near East

2. What's in a Name?
 - a. Elimelek
 - b. Naomi (Mara)

- c. Mahlon and Kilion?
 - d. Bethlehem
3. The Story Begins: Turning and Returning
- a. Naomi plans to *return* to Israel (1:6)
 - b. Naomi urges daughters-in-law *return* to their families (1:8-13)
 - c. Orpah *turns back* home (1:14)
 - d. Naomi urges Ruth to *return* (1:15)
 - e. Ruth *turns to Naomi and Yahweh* (1:16-18)
 - f. Naomi *returns* to Bethlehem (1:19-21)
4. Naomi: A Mixture of Grief and Faith
- a. Naomi hears of the Lord's provision for Israel (1:6)
 - b. Naomi blesses Orpah and Ruth in the Lord's name (1:8-9)
 - c. Naomi expresses that the Lord has turned against her (1:13)
 - d. Ruth commits her loyalty to Naomi's God (1:17)
 - e. Naomi expresses that the Almighty has made her life bitter, brought her back home empty, and afflicted her (1:20-21)
5. How does God's faithfulness show up in Ruth 1?

Takeaway:

Sometimes we may feel that God's faithful kindness is missing from our lives. The book of Ruth invites us to take a closer look to see where and how our faithful God is working in our lives, sometimes more incognito than not.

Next Cove:

Date: September 29, 2019

Title: It Just So Happened: God's Kindness Incognito