

Text: Ruth 1:1-18

Ruth

Some facts about her:

- She was a Moabitess -Ruth 1:22
- She married one of Naomi's son (Mahlon) but he died in Moab – Ruth 1:4; 4:10
- She later married Boaz – Ruth 4:13
- She stay and followed Naomi back to Bethlehem – Ruth 1:16-19
- She was willing to work and help out – Ruth 2:2
- She was the great grandmother of king David – Ruth 4:17,22

I. INTRODUCTION

Today's lesson, we are going see that difficult decisions may require **COMMITMENT** based on love and faith. The book of Ruth is full of decisions:

- Naomi's husband (Elimelech) chose to leave Bethlehem-Judah (House of Bread) with his whole family to the land Moab because of a famine) – vrs. 1:1-2
- Naomi's husband dies and their sons (Mahlon and Chilion) took wives from that country (Orpah and Ruth). – vrs. 1:3,4
- Naomi's sons died and she decides to go back to Bethlehem-Judah, because she heard how the Lord has blessed that land with bread – vrs. 1:5-7
- Naomi's daughters-in-law were given a choice to go back to their home. Orpah went back home to her family and gods (vrs. 15) and Ruth made a decision to stay with Naomi and to accept her God (vrs. 16) – vrs. 1:8-18

What can we learn for this – When times get rough and hard, we need to remain committed to the Lord! Psalms 37:5; Proverbs 16:3; Matthew 16:24; Colossians 3:23.

I. THE DECISION TO LEAVE – 1:14,15

Naomi told her daughters-in-law to go back Orpah home and live their lives to find a new husband. Orpah decided to go back to Moab. Why did she go back???

Notice what impacted her decision:

- Involved her relatives – she went to her people (the Moabites). These people were wicked (child sacrifice, ritual prostitution, sexual immorality, witchcraft, sorcery (Leviticus 18, Deuteronomy 18;8,9) and they were the enemies of God – the Jews battled them all the time as the Lord told them to drive them out!!
-She chose her people over serving the Lord God!
Matthew 10:37; Luke 14:26

- Involved her religion – She went back to her (personal) gods. The Moabites would tempt the Jews to abandon the Lord God to worship their false gods (Deuteronomy 20:18).
-She chose to serve the false gods of Moab instead of the Lord God! The Lord except us to serve Him and not other gods - Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 8:19; 13:4; Joshua 24:15; Matthew 6:24; I John 5:21

II. THE DECISION TO CLEAVE – 1:14-18 —

- The difficulties of Ruth's decision was not an easy decision regarding her life as a young widow.
- Her past was against her – she was raised in Moab and learned the things of Moab (their culture, their teachings, and their worship as a heathen nation. Just like us today, we all were heathens (sinners) that was lost and condemned to die in hell. But Praise the Lord, He saved and redeemed us! II Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 1:14
- Her present was against her

The details of Ruth's decision was a choice that was one of those turning points in the Jewish history:

- Her decision involved her family – vrs. 16 – notice she clung to Naomi as she said:
-Where every you go, I'll go.
- Her decision involved her future – vrs. 16 – notice what she said regarding her personal future life.
-Where every you lodge, I'll lodge.
- Her decision involved her faith – vrs. 16 – notice how she accepted the Lord with no hesitation.
-Your God (present tense), will be my God (present tense).
- Her decision involved her funeral – vrs. 18 – look she was willing to be buried in Israel and not her own country.
-Where you die, I'll die and be buried.

- The depth of Ruth's decision
- Look at Ruth 2:12, is the key to understanding of Ruth's decisions for what she did:
 - The Lord repays her works with a full reward. Her desire to be with God's people in His land allowed her to be redeemed by Boaz as the kinsman redeemer. Which resulted in her being part of the lineage of king David and the Lord Jesus!

Conclusion:

Ruth exhibited a love described in I Corinthians 13, which was sacrificial, selfless, and sustaining. We need to demonstrate this same type of love as Christians.

Faithful devotion to others is blessed by God!