

Text: Ruth 1:1-18

Ruth

Some facts about
her:

- She was a
Moabite - Ruth
1:22

***Ruth 1:22

*22 So Naomi
returned, and
Ruth the
Moabite, her
daughter in law,
with her, which
returned out of
the country of
Moab: and they
came to
Bethlehem in the
beginning of
barley harvest.*

- She married one
of Naomi's son
(Mahlon) but he
died in Moab –
Ruth 1:4; 4:10

***Ruth 1:4

*4 And they took
them wives of
the women of
Moab; the name
of the one was
Orpah, and the
name of the*

***Ruth 1:1-18

1 Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons. 2 And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there. 3 And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons. 4 And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years. 5 And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband. 6 Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the Lord had visited his people in giving them bread. 7 Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah. 8 And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the Lord deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me. 9 The Lord grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept. 10 And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.

other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years.

***Ruth 4:10

10 Moreover Ruth the Moabite, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day.

- She later married Boaz – Ruth 4:13

***Ruth 4:13

13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bare a son.

- She stay and followed Naomi back to Bethlehem –

11 And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? 12 Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have an husband also to night, and should also bear sons; 13 Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye stay for them from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the Lord is gone out against me. 14 And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her. 15 And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law. 16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: 17 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me. 18 When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.

I. INTRODUCTION

Today's lesson, we are going to 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

Ruth 1:16-19

***Ruth 1:16-19

16 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: 17 Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me. 18 When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her. 19 So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?

to remain committed to the Lord! Psalms 37:5; Proverbs 16:3; Matthew 16:24; Colossians 3:23.

***Psalms 37:5;

5 Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

***Proverbs 16:3;

3 Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.

***Matthew 16:24;

24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

***Colossians 3:23.

23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

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!!

***Deuteronomy 18;8

8 They shall have like portions to eat, beside that which cometh of the sale of his patrimony.

***Deuteronomy 18;9

9 When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.

- She was willing to work and help out – Ruth 2:2

***Ruth 2:2

2 And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.

- She was the great grandmother of king David – Ruth 4:17,22

*** Ruth 4:17

17 And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

*** Ruth 4:22

22 And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.

-She chose her people over serving the Lord God!
Matthew 10:37; Luke 14:26

***Matthew 10:37;

37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

***Luke 14:26

26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

- 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).

***Deuteronomy 20:18

18 That they teach you not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the Lord your God.

-She chose to serve the false gods of Moab instead of the Lord God! The Lord expects us to serve Him and not other gods - Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 8:19; 13:4; Joshua 24:15; Matthew 6:24; 1 John 5:21

***Exodus 20:3;

3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

***Deuteronomy 8:19; 13:4;

19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve

them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. 4 Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

*****Deuteronomy 13:4**

4 Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

*****Joshua 24:15;**

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

*****Matthew 6:24;**

24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

*****I John 5:21**

21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

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

***II Corinthians 5;17

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

***Colossians 1:14

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

- 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!

***Ruth 2:12

12 The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.

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!