

redeeming *Ruth*

Week 1
The Road Home

Read Ruth 1:1-22 for an overview of the passage.

Context

Moabite: A descendant of Lot through the incestuous union with his daughter (Gen. 19:30-38).

Elimelech: name that means “My God is King”

Mahlon and Chilion: names that mean “sickly” and “frail”

Famine in the land: typically indicates judgment.

Consequences

Reread Ruth 1:1-5 with the following question in mind: How did they get to the place where Naomi was a widow in a foreign land with two widowed daughter-in-laws? Consider the circumstances and decisions made that lead to their condition in this section.

What do you think Elimelech’s motivations were for leaving Israel and going to Moab?

What is symbolized by Judah (Israel) and Moab? Contextualize them for today.

What indications do you see in this passage that Elimelech was disobedient to God?

When have you had to decide between facing God’s discipline versus escaping to comfort?

What conflicts arose in your mind and heart? How are you prone to rationalize these decisions?

Repentance

Read Ruth 1:6-18 considering Naomi’s choices and counsel along with Ruth’s response.

What wisdom do you take from Naomi’s choice to return to the land of Judah?

Why does Naomi discourage them from returning with her? Consider how it affects her emotionally.

Ruth responds in love and faith (vs. 17) even in the face of certain hardship.

Have you ever given up comfort for a chance to know God deeper?

What discourages you from clinging to Jesus?

Humility

Read Ruth 1:18-22 putting yourself in the place of Naomi returning to her home town poor and widowed and in the place of Ruth, a foreigner in a strange country.

How would it feel to return to your hometown empty handed?

How does Naomi respond? How can you empathize with her response?

Considering Ruth, have you ever been in a situation where you did not fit in?

When you face humiliation or shame where do you go for comfort?

How have you seen God restore you in those times?

Reflection and Prayer

Reflect on the attributes of God and the elements of the Gospel you see in this passage.

How do your thoughts and actions testify to the truth you see in these Scriptures?

Pray that this scripture would transform your life and renew your mind.