



To Moab And Back

Ruth 1:1-22

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The Introduction to Ruth (verses 1-5)

1. How are *"the days when the judges ruled"* similar to today? How are they different?
2. What do you think of Elimelech's decision to move to Moab? i.e.: Was it a good decision? Was it a bad decision? What other choices did he have? What does Elimelech's decision indicate about his relationship with God?
3. If Elimelech had come to you for advice, what would you have told him? Put another way: If you were in Elimelech's sandals, what would you have done?
4. Are there examples today of people who have an attitude towards God such as Elimelech's?
5. Why do you think that Naomi, Chilion, and Mahlon went along with Elimelech? Did they have other options? What would you have done?

The Decision to Return (verses 6-18)

6. What does Naomi's response to her circumstances indicate about her relationship with God? i.e.: What in the text gives us an indication of how Naomi viewed God's attitude towards her? What in the text gives us an indication of how Naomi viewed herself before God? Was her perspective justified?
7. Do you know people who are responding to God as Naomi did? Do you ever feel like Naomi? What is that like?
8. How were Ruth's circumstances similar to Naomi's? How were they different? What was Ruth's response to her circumstances? What does Ruth's response indicate about her perspective and relationship with God? Why do you think that Ruth responded the way she did?
9. What was Orpah's response to her circumstances? Why do you think she responded the way she did?

The Return to Bethlehem (verses 19-22)

10. What does Naomi's request (verses 20,21) indicate about how Naomi views herself and her circumstances?
11. How would you define "bitter"? Why do you think Naomi was bitter? Is her bitterness justified? How did her bitterness effect: 1) her attitude towards herself; 2) her attitude towards others; 3) her attitude towards God; 4) the decisions she was making?
12. What advice would you give Naomi? What advice would you give others around you who may be feeling and acting the same way as Naomi?
13. The timing of their return, given in verse 22, is stated to give us an indication of Yahweh (the LORD / the Almighty Sovereign, yet personal God of the Covenant) at work. What does chapter one reveal about Yahweh? How might this revelation be a reassurance / encouragement to you?
14. How might chapter one help you to experience God's sovereignty, wisdom, kindness, and presence even in the midst of the circumstances of your life?
15. Because of this study what might you change in how you face this next week?