

Sermon: The Redeemer series; Date: June 24, 2018

Delivered by: Rev. Zach Fallon, senior high pastor

Bible text explored: Ruth 1:8–18

⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each of you to her mother’s house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!” Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. ¹⁰And they said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” ¹¹But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹²Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, ¹³would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me.” ¹⁴Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.” ¹⁸And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. What had Naomi understand correctly about God’s sovereign rule over all things? (See *Psa. 105:16, Ruth 1:6, and Eph. 1:11.*)
But why (*Ruth 1:7 and vv. 8-9*), after setting out with her daughters-in-law, did Naomi conclude that God’s provision for her would not suffice for two childless widows in a foreign land?
2. What (*vv. 11-13a*) was correct about Naomi’s understanding of God’s “levirate marriage” provision for widows in a male-dominated culture? (See *Deut. 25:5-10.*)
What expansion of this provision had she so far overlooked? (See *Lev. 25:25-27a and 7-49.*)
3. Why would Naomi likely have concluded (*v. 13b*) that the LORD had decided to withhold any aid to her deceased husband’s family line? (See *Deut. 23:3-6.*)
4. How (*vv. 14-15*) did Orpah respond to the logic of Naomi’s urging?
Why do you think Ruth clung tightly to Naomi, rejecting the easier alternative she offered?
5. What amazing cost (*vv. 16-18*) did Ruth determine to accept by casting her lot with her mother-in-law?
What does the name she invoked for her oath tell about the source of her faith?
6. Who was the only one who could see the entire story?
But was Naomi really ever without hope?
Am I prepared to pay the cost of clinging to God when the outcome is unclear?