

Sermon: **The Redeemer** series; Date: **July 1, 2018**
Delivered by: **Rev. Ben Panner**, college pastor

Bible text explored: Ruth 1:19–22

¹⁹So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, “Is this Naomi?” ²⁰She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”

²²So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. What about Naomi’s arrival (v. 19) caused such a commotion?
2. How (vv. 20-21a) did Naomi summarize her years away from Bethlehem?
What was commendable about her honesty?
When we feel weary and worn down, do we feel free to admit it?
3. Naomi attributed all that had occurred (v. 21b) to God’s sovereign control. Was that true? (See *Lev. 26:3-4*.)
But what about her assumption that God had abandoned her?
4. *Pastor Penner noted that God always has a good plan for his children, and will never forsake them, even when they cannot see it. He gave two illustrations:*
What apparent tragedy (*Gen. 37:25-28*) befell Joseph?
How did God provide for his family? (See *Ps. 105:16-17*.)
What about Job’s misfortunes? (See *Job 42:2, 5, 10*.)
5. The narrator provides (in v. 22) two hints Naomi overlooked about God’s plan to provide for her. Who returned with her?
Are we ready to commit to being a “Ruth” for others who suffer?
And when did Naomi and Ruth arrive?
Are we alert for signs of Holy Spirit renewal in our time?
6. *The Book of Ruth goes on to deal with much more than economic support and restoration of a family line for Naomi. As in C. S. Lewis’s Narnia, we should we be alert for a King on the move.*
On what hints of God’s sustaining goodness through a Redeemer should we be fixing our eyes? (See *2 Cor. 4:16-18*.)
On what ultimate provision should we be focused?