

I. Introduction

II. Decisions, Decisions, Decisions (Ruth 1)

A. The Choice to Leave Israel (Ruth 1:1-5)

B. The Choice to Return to Israel (Ruth 1:6-15)

C. The Choice to Follow God (Ruth 1:16-25)

1. After being implored by Naomi to return to her family and her false gods, Ruth the Moabitess showed exemplary _____ in declaring her intention to follow Naomi back to her land, her people and her God. (Ruth 1:16-17)
 - a. What is the significance of Ruth's statement?
 - 1) She displayed her personal _____ and _____ for Naomi.
 - 2) She demonstrated her _____ to the nation of Israel.
 - 3) She exhibited her _____ in the true God, the God of Israel.
 - 4) By announcing her future burial site, she established her new _____ with Israel.
 - 5) Finally, accepted the _____ from Israel's God should she fail to do what she has committed to.
 - a) What do we need to remember about this?
 - b. What challenges are in store for her because of her national origin?
 - 1) It will be harder to _____ and there will be a separation from the assembly due to her _____.
 - 2) What do we need to remember concerning God's dealing with man?
2. Then, seeing that Ruth had made up her mind, she stopped trying to _____ her to return to her family. (Ruth 1:18)
3. When Naomi returned to her hometown of Bethlehem, the people were excited to see her, but she announced, "for the _____ has dealt very bitterly with me." (Ruth 1:19-21)
 - a. Why is this significant?
 - 1) With the word "Almighty" she _____ that God is the all powerful God who has caused her bitter situation
 - 2) What does this show us?
 - a) God is _____ over all the earth.

- b) Perhaps she recognizes that she was _____ the will of God in her situation.
- 3) What can we see concerning her emotional state?
- a) She is _____ and completely at the _____ of her self emotionally.
- Does this mean she was angry with God because He had treated her unfairly?
- b) What is helpful to remember when faced with difficulties in life?
- That God doesn't make MISTAKES! (1 Jn. 1:5; Ps. 145:17; Is. 46:9-10; Prov. 28:13-14)
 - All things work together for GOOD (Rom. 8:28)
 - That God walks WITH YOU in your difficulty (Ps. 23:4; 46:1)
 - That God CARES for you. (Heb. 4:14-16; 1 Pet. 5:7)
- c) Do you see that the almighty God is in charge of whatever situation you are going through?
- b. She claimed she returned _____, though she returned with Naomi, a foreigner who had placed her faith in the true God.
- c. Why do we have trials in our life?
- 1) Trials are because of _____ sin and it's _____ on the human race. (Gen. 2-4)
 - 2) Trials are sometimes due to _____. (Gal. 6:7-8; Heb. 12:7-11)
 - 3) Trials are due to God's _____. (Gen. 50:20; Jam. 1:1-2; Job)
- d. What are trials designed to do?
- 1) _____ our faith
 - 2) _____ our heart
 - 3) _____ us
4. We see a glimpse at God's work on behalf of Ruth's faithfulness with the _____ of their return. (Ruth 1:22)
5. What does this mean to you?
- a. God is _____ over the situations in your life.
 - b. God _____ for you.
 - c. God desires you walk by _____ in His promises and seeks to direct your every step.
 - d. It is oftentimes darkest before the light, we need a heavenly _____ on our earthly situations.