



Date: September 29, 2019

Scripture: **Ruth 1:19-2:3**

### Recap

1. Sermon # 1 - (Judges) God is Faithful
2. Sermon # 2 - (Ruth 1:1-5) What to do when tragedy Strikes: *Lament, Repent, Rest*
3. Sermon # 3 – (Ruth 1:6-18) God loves us Forever and Always – No Matter what.
4. Sermon # 4 – Ruth 1:19-2:3 “How should I interpret the course of my life?”

Please Discuss: What has stood out to you in our study of the book of Ruth thus far?

Please read Ruth 1:19-2:3.

How does this section advance the storyline?

How does the agrarian outlook present at the beginning of chapter one in contrast to the end? <sup>1</sup>

What ironic twists and little hints have you observed thus far in this book that tell you that this story is going somewhere (names, timing, repetition, word plays, etc. )? <sup>2</sup> How many can you name?

What hints of God’s activity “God-sightings” have you seen in your life in the last two weeks?

How many can you name? What does that tell you about your story?

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### <sup>1</sup> **Full Circle Inclusio**

chapter one opens with famine but closes with harvest (v. 22).

Tom Constable, *Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible* (Galaxie Software, 2003), Ru 1:1.

- It began with famine and departure;
- it ends with harvest and return.

Robert L. Hubbard, *The Book of Ruth*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1988), 131.650.

<sup>2</sup> Example.... **Bethlehem** The word Bethlehem comes from the combination of the words

“house, place” (בֵּית) and “bread, food” (לֶחֶם), so the Proper name literally means “House

of Bread” or “Place of Food.” Beth-lehem -- Naomi and Ruth returned to “the בֵּית לֶחֶם<sup>2</sup>

house of Bread” at the beginning of the Barley harvest (April-May)



**Half Full vs. Half Empty:**

Naomi protests that God has brought her back *empty*.

1. Did Naomi come back entirely empty-alone?
2. Who came back with her?
3. What does that tell you about how Naomi valued Ruth the Moabitess?<sup>i</sup>
4. How does narrator show you that Naomi's assumptions are incorrect?
5. How have the events of our lives proven many of our assumptions incorrect?
6. What aspect of Yahweh's character do Ruth's actions illustrate?

How does God help us process our experiences?

Here is a Psalm which I believe speaks well to the situation Naomi face and many of us face as well.

Please pray through this Psalm out loud with your group. Have each person read a verse, then pray to God using that verse as the starting point or springboard for the prayer.

**Psalm 73:21–28** (ESV)

21When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart,

22I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you.

23Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.

24You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.

25Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

26My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

27For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.

28But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.



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**i Moabites**

- (1) the Moabites' contemptible origins in the incestuous relationship of Lot and his daughter ([Gen 19:30–38](#));
- (2) the Moabites' resistance to Israelite passage through their territory when they came from Egypt ([Numbers 22–24](#));
- (3) the Moabite women's seduction of the Israelites and the latter's subsequent punishment ([Num 25:1–9](#));
- (4) Israel's constitutional exclusion of Moab from the assembly of the Lord ([Deut 23:3–6](#)); and
- (5) the recent oppression of the Israelites by Eglon the king of Moab ([Judg 3:15–30](#)).

Block, D. I. (2001, c1999). Vol. 6: Judges, Ruth (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (627). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.