

RUTH PART I
“DECISIONS THAT DIRECT DESTINY”
RUTH CHAPTER I
OCTOBER 23-24, 2021

INTRODUCTION

- A prophetic story that teaches us of God’s way with people who seek Him.
- Ruth 1:1-5, “...a severe famine came upon the land. So a man from Bethlehem...left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him...Then Elimelech died...⁴The two sons married Moabite women...about ten years later, ⁵both...died. This left Naomi alone...”

I. DECISIONS, DIRECTIONS AND DESTINY

- When you make decisions is eternity in view?
- Luke 9:23-25, ...“If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me...²⁵“For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?”
- Elimelech went outside the boundaries of his journey.
- And it cost him and his family everything.
- Stay inside the boundaries the Lord has set for you.
- Be wise and thoughtful, Spirit led, prayerful.
- Judges 21:25, “...everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

II. PRESSURES THAT MADE PRACTICAL SEEM RIGHT

- How do our families impact our decisions?
- Elimelech moved his family from Israel to Moab.
- He must have struggled a long time before he decided to move; it seemed right, practical.

- The ways of the Lord are not always what we would find as practical as we wish they were.
- Elimelech broke boundaries God had set.
- Deuteronomy 23:3–6 - The people of Israel were commanded not to make a treaty with the Moabites.
- Psalm 37:18-19, “...in the days of famine they will have abundance.”

III. BAD THINKING CAN BRING DEATH

- Elimelech made a bad decision, fateful and wrong.
- Outside the boundaries of God’s will and way.
- Proverbs 14:12, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”
- Choosing God’s way is not always easy or clear. It takes faith and time.
- There will be famines and droughts in our lives.
- Where will you turn?
- How do you make your decisions? Do you turn to Him and His Spirit or to the world?

IV. CHOOSING LIFE NOT DEATH

- Vss. 8 - The girls came with Naomi.
- Vss. 9-10 - She tells them to go back, find husbands.
- Vss. 10-13 - Going back to Moab would mean going back to their gods and to death.
- Vss. 14-15 - Pivotal point: Orpah left
- Ruth clung to her...word is cleave
- Vss. 16-17 - She chose life...do you?

CLOSE

- That hunger we all chase after...is it killing you?
- Destroying your destiny? Driving you past boundaries?
- Lord where you go I will go.