

God's Kindness to His Own

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Ruth 1:1-22

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Reminders

- Ruth is set in contrast to the book of Judges
- A story of what God can do for His people when they look to Him in faith

A Strong Faith Amidst A Bitter Providence

- Naomi heard the Lord visited His people^{1:6}
- Naomi prayed her daughters would know Lord's blessing^{1:8-9}
- Naomi faults not God, though she knows bitterness^{1:13,20-21}
- Naomi had faith, but had lost hope

God's Kindness Amidst Hardship

1. Naomi responded to news of the Lord's kindness^{1:6}

- God's hand was in the news, not natural causes
- v6-22: 'return' 8x - Naomi's faith prompted her return
- It was God's plan Naomi would return with Ruth
- This was in fulfillment of God's promise to His own^{Gen3:15}
- Through Ruth God would provide deliverer^{2Cor5:21}

2. God Often Uses Your Faith to Bring Others to Faith

- Naomi exhibits strong faith to daughters despite bitterness
- Naomi acted unselfishly¹¹⁻¹³ urged daughters to remarry
- Naomi had balanced view of God - promised good & bad
- Naomi had an attractive faith - Ruth clung^{Ruth1:14;Gen2:24}
- That faith produced a determined faith in Ruth^{1:16}
- **APPLY:** what do others see in your life when you suffer? What is your testimony? 1Pet 3:8-17. Is this you? Remember the S.O.D.A.s God has for you!

*Sovereignly Ordained
Divine Appointment*

3. Emptiness Often Prepares Way for Fullness from Lord

- Quite a stir when Naomi returned to Bethlehem¹⁹
- A report of bitterness²¹ but acknowledge God is sovereign²¹
- God often uses hardship to discipline^{Heb 12:4-13}
- Will your hardship produce *the peaceful fruit of righteousness*^{Heb12:11?}
- Naomi calls God Almighty, abundant blessing^{Gen17:1;28:3;35:11}
- Naomi has no clue how richly she is about to be blessed as she returns to God's promises & His people!

An Excursion on Conversion

- v16-17 a Chiasmus w/ focus on faith in God:

*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.***

*Where 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."*

- Ruth didn't simply separate from her people and her gods and then turn to God; She declared a turning to God alone!

• Conversion involves total identification with God

- Faith in God alone includes:
- Identification with God's People - His Church^{Eph 5:23}
- Identification wherever & whatever^{16;1Cor2:5}
- Identification Now & Forever!¹⁷

• You will never turn from idols unless you 1st turn to Christ!

- When you come to Christ, God gives the grace to turn from idols(sins) to serve Him.
- You will NEVER EVER clean yourself up enough to be ready to come to God. Simply turn to God in Faith!