



FROM RUIN TO REDEMPTION

RUTH 1:6-18



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⁶ When Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. ⁷ With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.



⁸ Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, 'Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the Lord show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. ⁹ May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.' Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud ¹⁰ and said to her, 'We will go back with you to your people.'





¹¹ But Naomi said, ‘Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? ¹² Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— ¹³ would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them?’





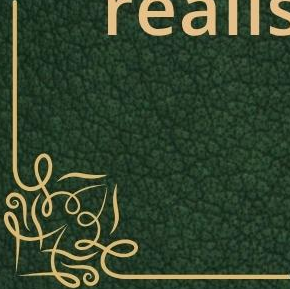
No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord's hand has turned against me!' ¹⁴ At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵ 'Look,' said Naomi, 'your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.'

¹⁶ But Ruth replied, 'Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you.'





Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.' ¹⁸ When Naomi realised that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.





HESED

Loyal, Faithful, Covenantal Kindness

Naomi isn't grieving as an atheist. She believes in God, she just doesn't like Him right now. She sees her misfortune as evidence that God has forgotten her, that He doesn't care. She sees God as an enemy that is against her, not a friend that is for her.





WHAT IS IN A NAME?

MARA = BITTER

'Don't call me Naomi,' she told them. 'Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. ²¹ I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me.'



VERSE 16

Where you go I will go, and
where you stay I will stay. Your
people will be my people and
your God my God.



VERSE 16

Where you go I will go, and
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Ruth clinging to Naomi was an act of sacrificial love. She stayed, because that's what love does. It holds fast in the worst of times; it stays. So too did Jesus, in the greatest act of sacrificial love the world has ever seen. He clung to a cross, He stayed there for us. Ruth left her homeland, so did Jesus. Ruth promised where you die, I will die. Jesus did so much more than that. He didn't just say – Lord punish me, if anything but death separates you and me, He was punished as the willing sacrifice for our sin. So that nothing, not even death, would ever be able to separate us from Him. Should we receive Him.



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