

Communion Meditation

Ruth 1.19-21

Series: Ruth "Different Perspectives"

December 31st, 2017

Recap

- "Godly man and pleasant wife move to Moab w/sickly sons due to famine"
- Husband dies – family remains in Moab – sons marry – sons die
- Naomi has no husband – no house – no rest
 - She urges Ruth & Orpah to find those in Moab as she returns to Judah
 - Orpah stays but Ruth vows to remain with Naomi
- Ruth embraced God – not just Naomi's son Mahlon

v19 ~ "Can this be Naomi?"

- It's been 10 long and hard years – without husband – then without sons
 - The years no doubt show on Naomi
- "Why had Elimelech chosen to leave & other to stay?"
 - Lives all differ / Situations all unique / God drives us down diff paths
- The people are genuinely excited to see Naomi return / curious

v20 ~ "Don't call me Naomi, call me Mara"

- Naomi has transitioned from "pleasant" to "bitter" through her experience
 - Naomi has returned to Bethlehem a bitter, broken woman
 - Ruth is a reminder of what she'd had – and what she's lost
- Upon returning to Bethlehem of Judah she has to retell / relive her pain

v21 ~ "went away full .. back empty"

- "The Almighty has made my life very bitter"
- "I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty."
- "The Lord has afflicted me"
- "The Almighty has brought misfortune upon me"
- Naomi's great losses have embittered her
 - She'd blessed Ruth and Orpah (vss 8-9) but that had been on instinct

Naomi's losses embittered her / But Ruth is seeing with eyes of faith

Naomi was empty due to loss of husband and sons (*faith not visible*)

But Ruth (*though she lost her husband*) remained full because she'd gained faith