



RUTH
AND THE
REDEEMER

UNEXPECTED RETURNS

Previously in Ruth...

v1 – “In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land...”

v2 – Elimelech and Naomi “went into the country of Moab and remained there.”

v3 – “But Elimelech... died, and she was left with her two sons.”

v5 – “...the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.”

Previously in Ruth...

v7 – “So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.

v11 – “Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me?”

v13 – “...it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me.”

v14 – “Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.”

Ruth 1 (ESV)

¹⁵ And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.”

¹⁶ But Ruth said, “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. ¹⁷ 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.”

¹⁸ And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

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How do we practice lament and repentance
that extends beyond the individual?

Take blame out of the equation

Connect to the humanity of all included

Be positioned to have God do the work

Daniel 9 (NIV)

⁴ I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed:

“Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁵ we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. ⁶ We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land...

¹⁸ Give ear, our God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy.

Ruth 1 (ESV)

¹⁹ So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, “Is this Naomi?” ²⁰ She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹ I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”

²² So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

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As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. **For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation** without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

INVITATION

With Jesus' direction, during Lent we practice:

- Personal lament and repentance together
- Extended lament and repentance together

*FOR GODLY GRIEF PRODUCES A REPENTANCE THAT
LEADS TO SALVATION...*

“Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁵ we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. ⁶ We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land...

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