



Devotion Info
- Three Funerals and A Famine -

DAY 1: Read Ruth 1:1-6

[1] In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him. [2] The man's name was Elimelech, and his wife was Naomi. Their two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. And when they reached Moab, they settled there.

[3] Then Elimelech died, and Naomi was left with her two sons. [4] The two sons married Moabite women. One married a woman named Orpah, and the other a woman named Ruth. But about ten years later, [5] both Mahlon and Kilion died. This left Naomi alone, without her two sons or her husband.

[6] Then Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had blessed his people in Judah by giving them good crops again. So Naomi and her daughters-in-law got ready to leave Moab to return to her homeland.
Ruth 1:1-6 NLT

- Elimelech moved his family to Moab due to a famine, but Moab was a historic enemy of Israel.
- How do you discern the line between making a wise, practical decision for your family and making a decision out of fear that compromises your faith or values?

DAY 2: Read Ruth 1:1-6

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- In Hebrew culture, names carried deep prophetic or descriptive meaning (e.g., Elimelech means "My God is King," Mahlon means "Sickly," and Chilion means "Pining/Failing").
- How does the irony of Elimelech's name contrast with his choice to leave the Promised Land, and what does this say about human nature?

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Ruth 1:1-6 NLT

- What sequence of tragic events leaves Naomi completely alone, stripped of her immediate family protectors and providers?
- Have you ever felt the tragic loss that left you questioning next steps in life?

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Ruth 1:1-6 NLT

- The text notes that the sons married Moabite women and lived there for about ten years.
- What are the dangers of a "temporary" compromise or detour in our lives becoming a permanent settlement?

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Ruth 1:1-6 NLT

- Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem only after hearing about God's blessing there.
- What does this reveal about the role of testimony and community blessing in motivating backslidden or hurting people to return to fellowship?

Application:

- What about verses 1-6 have you exploring deeper to understand what this book might hold for you?

If you would like a daily reminder of these devotionals for each week's sermon, text "DEVO" to 512-877-5131 and you'll receive a text message after 8am Monday-Friday with a link to that day's devotional.