

LESSON 3: A TALE OF TWO WOMEN

**Intro:** *A Tale of Two Cities*

**Big Idea:** Repentance, unlike \_\_\_\_\_, is a clinging to God for \_\_\_\_\_.

**Recap:**

Orpah heads back but Ruth \_\_\_\_\_ (or cleave, reminiscent of marriage in Genesis 2) to Naomi. We should think of loyalty to a covenant commitment.<sup>20</sup> We see this used for Israelites in relation to the Lord (Deut. 10:20; 13:4; Joshua 23:8).

<sup>15</sup> And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has **gone back** to her people and to her gods; **return** after your sister-in-law." <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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." <sup>18</sup> And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more. **Ruth 1**

**Naomi speaks to Ruth about Orpah.**

- She has \_\_\_\_\_ to her \_\_\_\_\_. Why don't you go back?
- She has returned to her \_\_\_\_\_. Why don't you go back?
- The women left the \_\_\_\_\_ of Moab \_\_\_\_\_ to marry these sons of Judah.
- Orpah has returned to the \_\_\_\_\_ of her \_\_\_\_\_.
- She fades back into obscurity to suffer the same fate as other Moabites living in \_\_\_\_\_.
  
- She didn't want to hear Naomi's petitions or pleas. She is essentially \_\_\_\_\_ Ruth.
- She is asking Ruth to \_\_\_\_\_ her.
- She is asking Ruth to turn back, or \_\_\_\_\_ of her decision to follow.
  
- Ruth re-affirms her \_\_\_\_\_ to Naomi.
- She will \_\_\_\_\_ wherever Naomi goes.
- She will \_\_\_\_\_ or abide/remain where Naomi remains or abides.

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<sup>20</sup> Duguid, pp. 142.

- She will also be \_\_\_\_\_ with Naomi: familial \_\_\_\_\_.
- Ruth forsakes her \_\_\_\_\_ for Naomi's people. Judah is part of God's people (see Genesis 17:7-8; Leviticus 26:12; Exodus 6:7)
- Ruth forsakes her \_\_\_\_\_ for Naomi's God- YHWH.
- This commitment is life-long: they will die in the same land.
- She invokes the name of the LORD in a self-\_\_\_\_\_ oath.
- Ruth's faith is one that \_\_\_\_\_ her entire life.

<sup>9</sup>For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. **1 Thessalonians 1**

“Ruth's leap of faith even outdid Abraham's. She acted with no promise in hand, with no divine blessing pronounced, without spouse, possessions, or supporting retinue.” **Robert Hubbard**<sup>21</sup>  
“So then, faith involves a commitment of the will to trust the self-revealing God of the Bible in the uncertainties and vicissitudes of everyday life.” **Dean Ulrich**<sup>22</sup>

- Naomi, finally \_\_\_\_\_, no longer tries to send Ruth back home.
- But she is \_\_\_\_\_, implying she is not \_\_\_\_\_ with this development.
- Why no \_\_\_\_\_ at the “conversion” and declaration of allegiance to the LORD?

### The Journey Completed

<sup>19</sup>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?” <sup>20</sup>She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. <sup>21</sup>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?”

- There is a shift from 3<sup>rd</sup> person \_\_\_\_\_ (Naomi, she, her) to \_\_\_\_\_.
- They were surprised to see her with another \_\_\_\_\_, and to discover she was a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The construction implies a joyous \_\_\_\_\_.
- Naomi no longer wants them to call her Naomi (My Delight or Pleasant) but to call her “Mara” or \_\_\_\_\_.

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<sup>21</sup> Hubbard, pp. 120.

<sup>22</sup> Ulrich, pp. 46.

- She speaks of the \_\_\_\_\_, not her attitude but the same might be said about her \_\_\_\_\_.
- She left \_\_\_\_\_ and returned \_\_\_\_\_.

**Fact Check:** Did she leave full? Did she return empty?

“God sometimes takes away the things that have become precious to us because they are supporting us in our life of sin and hardness of heart toward him.” **Iain Duguid**<sup>23</sup>

- She believed the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ against her.
- She affirmed that the Almighty brought \_\_\_\_\_ upon her.

Does the LORD bring calamity upon people or does He just permit calamity to come upon them?

“Like her ancestors, Naomi’s heart was angry with God for the way her life was turning out.”

**Iain Duguid**<sup>24</sup>

“By nature great and mysterious, Shaddai dispenses blessings, promises great destinies, and assigns fates to the wicked and the righteous.” **Robert Hubbard**<sup>25</sup>

We must train ourselves to focus on God and His \_\_\_\_\_, not those changing \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>22</sup> 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.

- Their return is \_\_\_\_\_, now it is time to live in their new home.
- There is a hint of coming \_\_\_\_\_ in mentioning her \_\_\_\_\_ background.
- They arrive at a good time, the beginning of the \_\_\_\_\_ harvest. This was late April/early May.
- This is a hint that their fortunes, their \_\_\_\_\_, is about to change.

“The physical famine also marked a time of spiritual famine in Naomi’s life.” **Sinclair Ferguson**<sup>26</sup>

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23 Duguid, pp. 149.

24 Duguid, pp. 144.

25 Hubbard, pp. 125.

26 Ferguson, pp. 41.

**Wrapping Things Up:**

- Faith can lead us to take \_\_\_\_\_, banking on God's character rather than our circumstances.
- Faith often has to \_\_\_\_\_ much of our past life \_\_\_\_\_.
- Our circumstances can \_\_\_\_\_ us if we lose sight of God's \_\_\_\_\_.
- God's providence is designed for our long-term \_\_\_\_\_, not our short-term \_\_\_\_\_.