

Character Study: Ruth

Part 1 – Ruth’s Devotion to Naomi

Ruth 1

What’s happening?

- Because of a famine in Canaan, Elimelech and his wife Naomi took their two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, and moved to Moab. Shortly thereafter, Elimelech died, leaving Naomi a widow. (1:1-3)
- Both of Naomi’s sons married Moabite women. Mahlon married Ruth and Chilion married Orpah. About ten years later, both Mahlon and his brother Chilion died. Ruth and Orpah, along with their mother-in-law Naomi, were all widows. (1:4-5)
- The famine in Canaan came to an end, so Naomi decided to return back home. She told her daughter-in-laws that there would be no point for them to go with her. Orpah decided to remain in Moab, but Ruth insisted on staying with Naomi. (1:6-18)
- Naomi and Ruth travelled to Bethlehem. The people were excited to see Naomi again, but Naomi was very sad because she had lost so much since the last time she was there. (1:19-22)

What’s God doing?

- > God was teaching Naomi that it is easy to overlook blessings when filled with self-pity.
- > Through the love and devotion Ruth had for her mother-in-law, God led Ruth to trust in Him as her God.

What’s to learn?

→ Naomi experienced difficult days, as we all do. But in her misery, Naomi failed to see God’s goodness. What blessings are you experiencing in your life that you have failed to recognize?

→ Ruth put her own interests aside out of loyalty to her mother-in-law. She willingly abandoned all she knew to go to an unknown and unfamiliar place. Ruth demonstrated devotion to Naomi, just as she expressed devotion to God (v. 16). Are you showing the same level of commitment and devotion to the people whom you love?