LifeBridge BAPTIST CHURCH

Worship Service
Mother's Day | May 10, 2020
Pastor Bruce Adrian

RUTH: Finding Hope in a Fallen World

Lesson Three • Ruth 1:6-15, 19-22

When You Feel God Has Abandoned You

Universal Principle

Our RESPONSE to disappointment in life will determine our walk with the Lord.

When You Feel God Has Abandoned You

Naomi responded with DESPAIR.

"For it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me." Ruth 1:13

She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. 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?" Ruth 1:20-21

Like, Naomi, We Respond with Despair When…

1. We Emphasize Our EMPTINESS But Not God's GRACIOUSNESS! *Ruth 1:6-15*

Why Did Naomi Try to Turn Back Ruth and Orpah?

- Naomi considered herself unworthy of LOVE.
- Naomi concluded God was unworthy of WORSHIP.

2. We Express Our BITTERNESS But Not God's GOODNESS! *Ruth 1:19-22*

Naomi's Bitterness Expressed

- Naomi blamed God for her DISAPPOINTMENT.

Naomi's Play On Words

"Do not call me Naomi (pleasant); call me Mara (bitter),
for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me."
Ruth 1:20

- Naomi blamed God for her DEPRIVATION.

Naomi's Before and After Picture

"I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty."
Ruth 1:21

Naomi's Theology: Right or Wrong?

Naomi allowed her circumstances to dictate that God is GREAT but not GOOD.

She recognized, and at the same time resented, God's providence in her life. The problem is that she forgot God's good purposes are at work in the worst of times.

When You Feel God Has Abandoned You

Acknowledge your disappointment by turning to GOD for hope, because in His greatness He is both gracious and good!

I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD. ~David, Psalm 27:13-14

Questions for Reflection

- ❑ Do you view the circumstances in your life—both the good and the bad—as part of God's plan for your life?
- ❑ What is your view of God when your desires and dreams are not met? Like Naomi, do you view God as great but not good? The book of Ruth challenges you to believe that God is working in your life even when it hurts.
- ❑ Do you need to repent and ask God's forgiveness for bitterness toward Him? He will forgive you as a gracious God.