

# CALL ME NOT NAOMI

## RUTH 1

Text: Ruth 1:19

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So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?

Introduction:

We have in this passage a very sad story. Naomi who had followed her husband from Bethlehem Judah to Moab with her two boys is now returning back to her home without her husband and two boys.

Accompanying her is Ruth her daughter in law. As she enters the city those around ask the question “Is this Naomi?” Why was such a question asked? Could the ten years in Moab have changed her appearance so drastically? Could it have been that Elimelech, Mahlon and Chilon were not with her like they were when they left? Could it have been that Ruth was now with her?

Maybe the question was asked out of curiosity, or maybe because of contempt disapproving of the action this family took when the famine came. Maybe this question was asked because of compassion and

concern. But regardless of why the question was asked notice with me some things that was obvious.

## **1. THE CHANGE THAT WAS NOTICED (VS 19)**

Ruth 1:19

So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?

Proverbs 13:15

Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.

### A. Change in her appearance

1. Weary
2. Worn

### B. Change in her attitude

1. Backslidden
2. Bitter

## **2. THE COMPLAINT THE WAS MADE (VS 20-21)**

Ruth 1:20-21

And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. [21] I went out full, and the Lord hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the Lord hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?

A. Blamed God for her suffering - went out full came back empty.

B. Blamed God for her sorrow - the Almighty hath afflicted me

## **3. THE COMPASSION THAT WAS SHOWN (21-22)**

Ruth 1:21-22

I went out full, and the Lord hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the Lord hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me? [22] So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

The Lord hath brought me home again

A. She failed to see the grace of God in her life.

- She would have never come home had the Lord left her alone.
- Often God permits things so that we will get to the place that we belong.

B. She failed to see the goodness of God in her life.

- God brought her home empty, but at the beginning of barley harvest.

Things were about to get better for the one who had become bitter.

Close:

Remember God is able to supply the need even during a famine.

Looking at Moab instead of the Lord will always lead to problems.

While in Moab nothing good can happen.

Don't blame God for our foolish decisions.

When God deals with us it is not to hurt us but to help us.

When we get back to the place we should be, God always has a harvest waiting. (Illustration - Prodigal Son received the best robe, a ring on his finger and shoes for his feet.)

God always takes care of us as we obey His word and follow His direction.