

IS THIS NAOMI

RUTH 1

Text: Ruth 1:19

(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?"

Introduction:

What an amazing question. This question comes from people that Naomi had grown up with and had been around most of her life. Why such a question from those that Naomi had spent a great deal of time with? I believe that we can see the answer. Notice

1. FAMINE

(Ruth 1:1) "Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons."

2. FAMILY

(Ruth 1:2) "And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there."

A. Consisted of

1. Elimelech - My God is King
2. Naomi - Pleasant
3. Mahlon - Sickly
4. Chilion - Weak

B. Normal family of 4.

3. FAILURE

(Ruth 1:2) "And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there."

A. Cause

1. Bethlehem Judah is a place of blessing.
2. Moab is the place of backsliding.
 - a. The failure began leaving the place of blessing.
 - b. It grew when they continued there.
3. Elimelech lacked faith in God's ability to provide

(Philippians 4:19) "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

4. Elimelech looked at the worldly conditions.

(1 John 2:15-17) "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. {16} For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. {17} And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

5. Elimelech became restless

B. The cost

(Ruth 1:3-5) "And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons. {4} And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years. {5} And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband."

1. Grief

2. Death

B. The cure

(Ruth 1:6-7) "Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the Lord had visited his people in giving them bread. {7} Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah."

(Ruth 1:22) "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."

1. Naomi decides to return to the place of blessing.

2. The cure to our faithlessness is to believe God.

(Mark 11:22) "And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God."

3. The cure for looking at the world is to look to Him.

(John 12:32) "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."

4. The cure to restlessness

a. Get busy

b. See the need

(Proverbs 29:18) "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."

4. FINALLY (1:19)

(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?"

A. The question

I'm sure that she was also ask about her husband and her sons.

1. Had only been in Moab for 10 years.

(Ruth 1:4) "And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years."

2. A picture of a transgressor

(Proverbs 13:15) "Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard."

B. The results of sin and transgression

1. Often makes one bitter.

(Ruth 1:20) "And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me."

- a. Naomi means pleasant
- b. Mara means bitter

2. The result of sin and transgression will empty one.

(Ruth 1:21) "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. It never fails when one goes back to the world, they may leave full but they will always come back empty.

C. Our response.

(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?"

1. We too need to be moved when one comes to Judah back from Moab.

Close:

Let's never forget the results of sin and transgression and going back into the world. Because often when one returns, those that were closest to them will not even know them.