

RETURN FROM THE COUNTRY OF MOAB RUTH 1

Text: Ruth 1:6

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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.

Introduction:

Just to review what has taken place Elimelech led his family to Moab because of the famine in Bethlehem Judah. While there his sons married Moabite women, Orpah, and Ruth.

Elimelech dies along with his tow sons, leaving three widows now in the land of Moab.

Notice:

1. A TRAGIC DIRECTION

The tragedy in the life of this family is not the death of Elimelech.

The tragedy in this family is not the death of Mahlon and Chilion.

The tragedy in this family is not the the fact that there are now three widows living in a country that no one cares for.

The tradgedy was the move to Moab.

The move was the result of:

A. Famine - No food for the family

Often in a time of lack many decisions are made. We must in those decisions be dependent on God.

B. Fear - was living by sight and not by faith

Romans 1:17

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

2 Cor. 5:7

(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

C. Flawed idea - thought that it must be the Lord's leading them to Moab

Many people have been devastated because of some flawed idea.

- A new job somewhere else - without knowing if there is a good church to attend
- A job promotion which instead of giving more opportunity to serve the Lord there is less time

There is more to consider than that which is seen on the surface.

Illustration: Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-24)

2. A TIME OF DECISION

Word came that back home the Lord had visited his people and had given them bread to eat. Naomi, Orpah and Ruth then make a decision.

A. Naomi chose to return

1. She left blessed and returns broken and bitter

B. Orpah chose to retreat

I have often wondered why Naomi encouraged both Orpah and Ruth to go back to Moab; no doubt living in Moab had deadened Naomi's spiritual insight.

Why would anyone encourage someone to dwell in place like Moab?

Sadly many parents today attempt to encourage their children to do much of the same things

Examples:

- Homecoming dance or Prom
- Will buy clothing and put it on their sons or a daughter that certainly doesn't honor the Lord.

Why do individuals retreat?

- Bad advice or company
- Some make decision based only on emotion. It is a emotional detour instead of a spiritual and scriptural decision.
- Some never grow spiritually like they should. They take shortcuts, and shortcuts most of the time lead to distractions, discouragement, and departure.
- Some are just carnal living the things of the world.

I often wonder if Naomi thought about what happened to Orpah after she went back to Bethlehem-Judah and Orpha to Moab.

C. Ruth chose to remain

Ruth 1:15-18

And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law. [16] And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: [17] Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me. [18] When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.

- Note her commitment to her mother-in-law
- Note her devotion to God

Close:

Dad don't lead your family to Moab

Dad and Mom don't encourage your children to get involved in things that you will wish in the future a

1000 times over that you never wished you had pushed.

Maybe you're in Moab today - get out and come back to the Savior.