

TO RETURN UNTO THE LAND OF JUDAH RUTH 1

Text: Ruth 1:7

(Ruth 1:7 KJV) "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."

Introduction:

At the time of our text there was a famine in the land. The Bible says that Elimelech left Judah, and went to Moab.

Moab was a city that was associated with trouble and worldliness. It was named after an incestuous son of Lot. You don't have to know a lot about your Bible to know what type of Christian life Lot lived; a life of compromise, and lack of character.

So Elimelech left Judah which by the way was a city of worship praise, thanksgiving, to go to Moab, a place of worldliness and trouble. I want us to see the price of backsliding this evening.

Notice with me:

1. THE CAUSE

(Ruth 1:1-2 KJV) "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} 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. Elimelech lacked faith in God's ability to provide.

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

B. Elimelech looked at worldly conditions.

(1 John 2:15-17 KJV) "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."

C. Elimelech became restless.

D. Elimelech had a love for the things of the world.

2. THE COST (VSS 3-5)

(Ruth 1:3-5 KJV) "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."

A. Grief.

B. Death.

3. THE CURE (VSS 6-7)

(Ruth 1:6-7 KJV) "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."

A. The cure for Elimelech backsliding.

1. Realize that God will meet your need.

Illustration:

The preacher who led his church to take on another missionary when times get hard

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

2. The cure for looking at the world.

- a. Look to Him.

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

3. The cure for restlessness.

- a. Get busy.

- b. See the need.

4. Cure for the love of the world.

(1 John 2:15-17 KJV) "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."

B. The cure for Naomi (vss 7)

(Ruth 1:7 KJV) "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."

1. Return to the place of worship, praise, and blessings.
2. Return to the presence of God.

C. The cure for you and me.

1. Come to yourself and return home.
 - a. Like the Prodigal son.

(Luke 15:11-24 KJV) "And he said, A certain man had two sons: {12} And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. {13} And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. {14} And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in

that land; and he began to be in want. {15} And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. {16} And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. {17} And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! {18} I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, {19} And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. {20} And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. {21} And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. {22} But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: {23} And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: {24} For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry."

2. Return to your first love.

a. Church at Ephesus.

(Revelation 2:1-7 KJV) "Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the

seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; {2} I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: {3} And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. {4} Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. {5} Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. {6} But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate. {7} He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

Close:

Let's return Unto the Land of Judah

The place of God's blessings

A place of praise and worship