

RUTH'S FAITH OUTSHINES NAOMI'S!

(Ruth 1:6-18)

I. INTRODUCTION

II. DEATH IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY (1:1-22)

A. The Setting for the Crisis (1:1-2)

B. The Nature of the Crisis (1:3-5)

C. The Response to the Crisis (1:6-18)

1. Naomi took the initiative; _____ made the _____ to return to Bethlehem (all the verbs are in the singular). (v. 6a)

2. Unfortunately, much like the Prodigal Son (of Luke 15), Naomi wanted to return to Bethlehem _____ out of obedience to the Lord, but because she was _____. (6b)

3. The word “_____” in its various Hebrew forms is a _____ word in the Book of Ruth (e.g., 1:6, 7, 8, 10, 15, 16, 22; 2:6; 4:3).

4. Naomi knew that for her two Moabite daughter-in-law's _____ in Israel was highly _____, and so she encouraged them to remain in Moab, where their chances were better. (v. 8a)
 - a. She _____ told both of them to come with her to the Promised Land, _____ their false gods, and _____ the One true God, Yahweh.
 - b. She probably didn't want her former neighbors in Bethlehem to see that her sons had been _____, and had _____ Moabite women.

5. Naomi offered a “prayer-wish” for Orpah and Ruth that Yahweh would deal with them “_____” (Heb. *hesed*), and give them “_____” (Heb. *menuhah*) with a new husband. (vv. 8b-9)

6. Initially both Orpah and Ruth _____ Naomi's demands for them to return to Moab. (v. 10)
7. Naomi explained her reasoning through a rather logical argument; because of her advanced _____ there was _____ hope of her _____ future sons. (vv. 11-13a)
8. By her expression, "*the hand of the Lord has gone out against me*" it is evident that in Naomi's grief she was _____ towards the Lord, rather than _____. (v. 13b)
9. We must not forget that her current situation in life was the direct result of _____ that she and her husband had made, when _____ chose to leave the Promised Land, and then _____ in Moab.
10. While extremely emotional, Naomi offered _____ for Ruth to return to her heathen people and to her pagan gods. (vv. 14-15)
11. In an incredible demonstration of faith Ruth renounced her former life, her _____, her _____, and her religious _____, as she declared her devotion for her mother-in-law and Yahweh. (vv. 16-18)
- a. *wherever you go, I will go,
wherever you lodge, I will lodge*
 - b. *Your people shall be my people,
And your God, my God.*
 - c. *where you die, I will die,
and there will I be buried.*

* What can you personally apply from this passage today?