

Ruth 1:6-19a

Naomi begins her return journey to Bethlehem—1:6-7

- 1) Why? *because ... Yahweh had taken note of His people to give them food.* (cf. 1:1; Genesis 21:1; 50:24-25; Exodus 13:19; 1st Samuel 2:21)

Naomi's conversation with her two daughters-in-law—1:8-14

- 1) The first aspect of the conversation—1:8-10
 - a) Her commands—1:8a (go be with your mother, not your mother-in-law; cf. 2:11)
 - b) Her blessings as rewards, based on her understanding of God's character—1:8b-9a
 - i) Loyal-love—*May Yahweh deal with you^{pl} in loyal-mercy (hesed; allegiance), as you^{pl} have dealt with the dead and with me.* (cf. 2:20; 3:10)
 - ii) Restful marriage—⁹*May Yahweh grant that you^{pl} may find a resting place each in the home of her husband.*” (cf. 4:10-13)
 - c) Their unified response—1:9b-10 *“No, we will return with you to your people.”*
- 2) The second aspect of the conversation—1:11-13 (central focus of 1:6-19)
 - a) Her first command—1:11a
 - i) Her first set of rhetorical questions—1:11b
 - b) Her second commands—1:12a
 - i) Her second set of rhetorical questions—1:12b-13a (cf. Deuteronomy 25:5-10)
 - c) Her theological explanation—1:13b *the hand (power) of Yahweh has gone out against me.*” (emotionally and financially; “hand of the LORD” is used @ 35x in the OT)
 - i) She views herself as an object of God's displeasure (cf. 1:20)
- 3) Their contrasting responses—1:14 Orpah good response, Ruth's better response
 - a) **Choice:** Yahweh *plus* nothing in Bethlehem, or everything *minus* Yahweh in Moab?
 - b) Ruth clinging (cf. Genesis 2:24) to Naomi is more than just a hug (cf. Orpah's kiss). It is loyal-mercy (hesed) in action. (cf. 2:2, 22; 3:1, 16, 18; James 1:27)

Naomi's conversation with Ruth—1:15-17

- 1) Naomi's evaluation of Orpah's choice and Naomi's response to it—1:15
- 2) Ruth's evaluation and response—1:16-17
 - a) A “loyal disobedience”
 - b) A Godward commitment [the loyalty theme is central]
 - i) As to all **circumstances**—*For wherever you travel, I will travel. Wherever you spend the night, I will spend the night.*
 - ii) As to **loyalty**—
 - (1) Socially/nationally—*Your people will be my people,*
 - (2) Religiously/spiritually—*and your God will be my God.*
 - iii) As to **end of life**—¹⁷*Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried.*
 - c) A self-curse—*May Yahweh (not Chemosh) do this to me and more also if anything but death separates me from you.*” (Cf. 1st Samuel 20:12-17)
 - i) In contrast to Naomi's blessing (cf. 1:8b-9a)
 - d) **Question:** Do you see now how Yahweh has brought Ruth to Himself?

Naomi and Ruth resume the return journey (1:6) to Bethlehem—1:18-19a

- At least 10 years after they had left Bethlehem (1:4)

Question: Whom do you know that needs a demonstration of loyal-mercy (hesed)?