



## THE GOSPEL IN

# RUTH

## RETURN AND REDEMPTION

### SEPARATION RUTH 1:6-18

*"The Book of Ruth stands on its own foundation. It shows that in the darkest days, God was working out his purposes in the lives of individuals who were rightly related to him." —J. Vernon McGee*

#### I. "TO RETURN HOME" (RUTH 1:6, 7)

- A. A signal for decisiveness (v. 6)
- B. A sad setting-out (v. 7)

*"It is when we are out of options that we are most ready for God's surprises."*  
—Max L. Lucado

#### II. "GO BACK..." (1:8, 9A)

- A. Compassionate suggestions for survival (v. 8)
- B. Concern for the future (v. 9a)

*"Deep is the plowing of grief! But oftentimes less would not suffice for the agriculture of God."* —Thomas De Quincey

#### III. "BACK WITH YOU" (1:9B, 10)

- A. Anguished sorrow at parting (v. 9b)
- B. Amazing willingness and loyalty (v. 10)

*"The great thing in the world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving."* —Oliver Wendell Holmes

#### IV. "WHY WOULD YOU COME...?" (1:11-13)

- A. Consideration of law (v. 11)
- B. Consideration of limitations (v. 12)
- C. Consideration of losses (v. 13)

*"Our weaknesses make us appreciate God's strength."* —Erwin W. Lutzer

#### V. "GOING BACK" (1:14, 15)

- A. Signals of sincerity (v. 14)
- B. The test of the gods (v. 15)

*"Do not weigh highly who may be for you or against you. But take thought and care that God be with you in everything you do. Have a good conscience, and God will defend you well."* —Thomas a Kempis

#### VI. "WHERE YOU GO, I WILL GO" (1:16-18)

- A. The pledge of loyalty (v. 16)
- B. The proposal with God (v. 17)
- C. The persuasion of determination (v. 18)

*"Do the truth you know, and you shall learn the truth you need to know."* —George Macdonald



### FOR THOUGHT, DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION...

1. Underneath the narrative of this touching scene runs the theme of critical *decision-making*. In the large or small choices of life, (education, career, marriage, finances, churches, etc.) how may we make right ones?
2. Granting that Naomi's testing had been intense, what do you think about her lament of bitterness in verse 13? Later she would asked that her very name be changed to *Mara*, meaning *bitterness*. Discuss the consequences of unresolved bitterness (note Hebrews 12:15).
3. We don't seem to have any reasons given as to why Naomi persistently urged the young women to go back to their people and their gods (v. 15). Do you think that she might have had a purpose in it?
4. Daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah are interesting studies in character contrast. While both were solicitous of Naomi, what seemed to be the differences in their grief, their emotions, and their ultimate choices? J. Vernon McGee suggests that they are both like some church members; what do you think he meant?
5. Destiny of the ages hovered over the decisions of the two younger women. Playing "what if", what might have happened had both Ruth and Orpah turned back? Or, if both had gone back to Bethlehem with Naomi?
  - Or, if all three had decided to stay in Moab?
6. What are some "Moabs" in our lives in which we choose to remain or leave?