

The Gospel According to Ruth

Dr. Elliott Mallory-Greene

Scripture(s):

⁷ So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. ⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each of you to her mother’s house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹ The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!” Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. ¹⁰ And they said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.”

~Ruth 1:7-10 (ESV)

Exposition:

1:7

1. The news of the LORD providing food in Bethlehem _____ Naomi to return home.
2. The two daughter-in-laws are not returning (their home is in Moab), rather they are _____ Naomi.
3. On the road to Bethlehem the three widows came to a _____.
4. The impetus for this _____ in the story is when Naomi insisted that her two daughters-in-law return home to Moab.
5. Theologically, this is huge because it serves at a point of _____ to Israel’s God and life as a worshipper of Yahweh, and being numbered among his _____.
6. To return home to Moab would mean returning to Moabite _____ and _____.

1:8

7. Verse 1:8 is the first time that the reader hears Naomi’s voice which leaves a first impression of her _____ and _____.
8. A character’s first words in a story are significant in revealing the vital aspects of a character’s _____ and _____. (Consider the first words of the Serpent in Genesis 3:1).
9. Naomi was possibly concerned that the two Moabite widows of her sons might not have a _____ reception in Bethlehem.

Lesson 4: Ruth: The Journey Home (Part 2) 1:7-10

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10. Naomi urges Ruth and Orpah to return to the house of their mother wherein _____ were usually _____.
11. The “mother’s house” is likely not a physical dwelling but rather speaks of a mother’s _____.
12. The words “deal kindly” [ESV] in the Hebrew literally says, “May [YHWH] do _____ ...”
13. *Hésed* here refers to an act of benevolence and for Naomi the term is grounded in the hope that God of the universe is _____ and will reward _____.
14. Naomi also acknowledges the kindness that Ruth and Orpah showed her _____ in the loss of Naomi’s two sons.
15. The kindness is _____, affecting both sides.

1:9

16. Verse 1:9 introduces to us the one of several _____ throughout the Book of Ruth.
17. Naomi’s belief that God is at work in _____ and in particular their story can be seen in the words “May the LORD...”
18. Her prayer is that the LORD would _____ her two daughter-in-laws for their kindness, knowing that she herself had nothing to offer them.
19. Her hope is that the two young women would find “rest” in house of a [new] _____.
20. The word translated “rest” (*Heb m^enuḥâ*) can be translated “rest,” a better interpretation is “_____,” (achieved by marriage) which has been at the heart of Naomi’s dilemma from the time of the death of her husband and two sons.
21. Naomi attempts to kiss them goodbye signaling that their duties are _____; however, the three erupt in tears.

1:10

22. Ruth and Orpah _____ to comply with Naomi’s desires for them and _____ that they would return with Naomi to [her] people.

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23. The word order in the Hebrew places stress on the words “with you [Naomi]” suggesting as it were an _____ of her as their mother rather than to return to their _____ mothers.
24. It should be noted that at this point Naomi does not have a _____!

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Scriptures for Meditation:

1. Psalm 62
2. 1 Kings 8:56
3. 1 Chronicles 22:9
4. Exodus 15:13