

/Hello. We will now begin with the second lecture on the Book of Ruth./ In the previous lecture in Ruth 1:1-5, we studied that Naomi's family traveled to Moab from Bethlehem because of the famine, but they failed because of the judgment of God.

/In today's passage, 1:6-22, it records the account of Naomi and her daughter-in-law's return to Bethlehem.

/Read verses 6-7./ When she heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, Naomi and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

/In the times of the judges, Israel was punished by God because of their unfaithfulness. As a result, there was a famine in Bethlehem. Still, God cared about the land and gave them food once again. Naomi, who lived in the land of Moab, heard of this news.

/Although God punishes his people when they sin and do evil, he still gives grace and blessings to those who repent and seek God./ In Job 5:17-20, it says that blessed is the man whom God corrects.

/God punishes and wounds, but he also binds up, and he injures, but his hands also heal. /God rescues his people from six calamities, and in seven no harm will touch them.

/Verse 20 especially says that in famine, God will ransom his people from death and in battle from the stroke of the sword. /When God's people sin, he allows war to break out and he punishes with famine and plagues, but when his people repent and come before God and keep their faith, God gives grace and blessings.

/In today's text, it says that the LORD came to aid to provide food for his people. God encouraged and gave grace and blessing to the people in the midst of punishment.

/After Naomi heard this news, she left Moab to return to her home Bethlehem with her two daughters-in-law./ True repentance is to return to God./ Moab was a place where serving God was difficult./ It is a place of unfaithfulness.

/It was filled with idolatry./ If we have truly repented, we must leave the sinful place. / We must return to God./ If Naomi stayed in Moab and said she had repented, that would not have been a true repentance.

/Now that she departed from Moab, it showed that she had truly repented./ True repentance is repentance of knowledge, of emotion, and of will.

/Repentance of knowledge is understanding that one sinned. /It is knowing that one is a sinner before God, / and he must confess his sins before God. /Second, it is to grieve and hurt emotionally over one's sins.

/Then there will be true repentance. / Third, it is to willfully depart from sin and return to God. / True repentance is to fix what is wrong.

/A robber bears fruit of repentance when he stops robbing others./ An adulterer must stop committing adultery.

/If a man ate another man's cow and asked for forgiveness before God, then eats another cow the next day and confesses the same sin before God, he has not prayed a true repentance.

/When we leave sins and fix what is wrong, and when we stand upright, we will bear true fruit of repentance. / We all know about Judas Iscariot. / Judas Iscariot sold his teacher Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.

/However, Judas realized his sins even before Jesus took up the cross. / He was in pain due to guilt in his conscience. / When he could not stand it any longer, he tried to return the money, but the priests refused to accept it, so he committed suicide after throwing the silver at the temple.

/In knowledge and emotion, Judas Iscariot knew that he was wrong and he was in pain, but he did not willfully repent before God or ask for forgiveness.

/As a result, Judas Iscariot was not saved, and he became a person who would have been better off if he was not born./ A few years ago, this article was on the news.

/A believer committed the sin of adultery./ After he committed adultery, he jumped off a building and died because he could not stand to bear his guilt before God./ This is not true repentance.

/He may have feared God, but he did not truly repent. True repentance is departure from sin as David did with a painful heart and tears.

/In today's text, after Naomi heard the news that God helped Bethlehem and provided food for the land, she left Moab to return home. This was a true form of repentance.

/Naomi, who failed and was disappointed, returned to the place of old faith and repented before God to return.

/Verses 8-9./ Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show kindness to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me. May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband." Then she kissed them and they wept aloud

/When Naomi was about to return to Bethlehem, her two daughters-in-law pursued Naomi./ However, Naomi was not pleased with this and told them not to follow her. She said, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home."

/In that moment, if our two daughters-in-law wanted to come with us to Bethlehem, we would have taken them. However, Naomi did not, and she told them to return home.

/Then why did she insist that her two daughters-in-law return home?/ First, it was to keep them from following their mother-in-law out of human compassion.

/If they felt forced to follow her, they would blame Naomi and fail to keep their faith if they faced difficulties and trials in the future.

/Second, Naomi wanted to test their faith.

/If they did not have true faith in God, they would have covered the glory of God when they returned to Bethlehem by blaming God in the midst of difficulties.

/For example, after Jesus fed thousands of people with five loaves of bread and two fish, He sent away the same crowd that have gathered the next day and said, "If you don't drink my blood and eat my flesh, you have nothing to do with me."

/The followers who followed Jesus with satisfied stomachs left Him when trials came. Then only Jesus' twelve disciples remained.

/Verses 10-13./ and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me-- even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons-- would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD's hand has gone out against me!"

/When Naomi refused them, her two daughters-in-law said, "We will go back with you to your people." Naomi again refused them and said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands?"

/Here, Naomi based her words on the law in Deuteronomy 25:5-6./ In the law of the Old Testament, there were laws on marriage.

/If a man died without a child, his brother was to enter his brother's wife to continue the family line. The firstborn was to be named after the dead father and the second child and other proceeding children would be considered his offspring.

/According to the law, Ruth had to marry the brother of her deceased husband. However, because Naomi's two died, Naomi had to take a new husband and have another child to observe this law. However, the daughters-in-law were too old.

/Naomi said that it was impossible for her to have more children, and hence, there was no hope for them. She encouraged them to return to their homes, marry young husbands, and have children with them.

/Verse 14./ At this they wept again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-by, but Ruth clung to her.

/When Naomi continued to insist that her daughters-in-law leave, Orpah listened to her mother-in-law and returned to her homeland while Ruth followed her mother-in-law to Bethlehem.

/Ruth understand the truth and had true faith that she received from her mother. However, Orpah return to her homeland because she did not have faith but merely had humanly compassion towards her mother-in-law.

/God always calls the faithful and uses them, and blesses them. Jesus, in the New Testament period, always brought three people with Him wherever He went. They were Peter, James, and John.

/Jesus kept them close because they had better faith than the other nine disciples./ God valuably uses the faithful in any time period.

/Aaron, Hur, Joshua and Caleb helped Moses, and they were used by God. / Silas, Timothy, Priscilla and Aquila was always with the apostle Paul, and they were used valuably by God.

/Even in the end times like today, God uses people like Ruth./ Ruth, in conclusion, received great blessings from God because she followed her mother-in-law with faith.

/However, Orpah was not saved because she returned to her homeland and people.

/Verses 15-18./ "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her." But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me." When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

/These verses well express Ruth's faith. /First, Ruth had faith to confess that she would go where her mother-in-law went, and she would stay where her mother-in-law stayed.

/Second, she confessed that her mother-in-law's people would be her people and her mother-in-law's God would be her God./ Third, she confessed that where her mother-in-law died, she would die. She was determined to follow her mother-in-law.

/Ruth did not say these things just to please her mother-in-law. / Ruth discovered the God that her mother-in-law served, and she understood the truth.

/Hence, she was determined to follow her mother-in-law and serve God, even if she would die, because she had faith to serve God. / Ruth learned about the true God and believed through her mother-in-law.

/She discovered that God was life, salvation, and the most valuable treasure she would have in her life./ She could not leave God because she loved and found joy in God.

/She confessed that she would walk that path because she liked the God-serving Israelites more than the Moabites, she liked her God-serving mother-in-law more than her physical mother, and she loved to serve God more than her physical husband.

/She loved the LORD God of her mother-in-law, she loved the nation that served God, and she loved the people who served God, so she decided to follow her mother-in-law to Bethlehem.

/When we grow deeper in our faith, we come to know God, and when we experience him, we then understand that God is the God of great joy./ In Psalm 43:4, God is described as the God of joy and delight.

/Those who discovered this God love the believers who serve the same God.

/David confesses in Psalm 16:3, “As for the saints who are in the land, they are glorious ones in whom is all my delight.” / Believers who truly discover God and God’s love will love their brothers of faith.

/Ruth could not leave her mother-in-law, who taught her to love and serve God. / Ruth and Naomi were united in faith.

/Also, Ruth could not leave her mother-in-law out of loyalty. She would have been a traitor to her mother and to God./ That is why she did not leave her mother-in-law, but was determined to follow her to the end.

/However, Ruth did not have assurance that her life would be good in Bethlehem./ She did not know what would happen as a stranger among the people of Israel.

/She followed Naomi because she discovered God and the truth through her mother-in-law, and also because there was life, salvation, and blessing in that path.

/Everyone of faith have similar qualities of faith./ In Hebrews 11:24, it says that Moses had a similar faith./ During the time of Moses, Pharaoh commanded all male Hebrew babies to be thrown into the water. Moses was abandoned in the water.

/The princess was bathing in the water, and she discovered Moses and adopted him. / Later, Moses enjoyed all privileges as the son of the princess.

/In those times, Egypt was the most powerful country among the nations. The prince of Egypt was a title of authority, fame, wealth, and everything else.

/As Moses grew, he learned of his Hebrew identity. / He realized that it was wrong for him to live in the palace as the son of the Egyptian princess.

/As Moses ate good food in the palace, wore fine clothes, and lived in revelries, he realized that it was a sin. / Hence, he left the palace because he wanted to suffer with God's people instead of momentarily enjoying sin.

/He also understood that suffering for Christ was more valuable than Egyptian treasures./ Believers who discover this truth and God no longer value the treasures of this world.

/That is why Paul confessed that he considered all things of this world to be rubbish.

/When God appeared before Abraham and commanded him to leave his country, people, and father's household to the land he promised, Abraham obeyed God and gave up all things.

/Such obedience is the fruit of those who have truly discovered God and understood the truth./ Also, the three friends of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego triumphed by faith.

/They were selected by Nebuchadnezzar the Babylonian king and received special education, so they were guaranteed wealth and success./ However, they confessed that they could not betray God, and they obeyed the commandment of God regarding the issue of eating the king's food and bowing before idols.

/They then entered the blazing furnace./ Daniel entered the den of lions./ They were able to do it because they discovered God and understood the secret of heaven.

/Verses 19-22./ So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?" "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me." So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.

/This is an account where Naomi returns to Bethlehem with her faithful daughter-in-law./ When Naomi returned, all people welcomed her./ Naomi said to them, "Don't call me Naomi, but call me Mara."

/"Naomi" means joy and gladness, while "Mara" means bitter.

/This was a confession that she received God's judgment because she left her faith and went to the land of Moab. / Naomi realized this by faith.

/We believers must believe in the sovereignty of God no matter what happens to us./ If something good happens to us, we must acknowledge God's help and thank him./ We must understand that things happen according to the will of God when we encounter hardships and failures in our lives.

/Naomi realized God's will at that time./ That's why she stood in a place of true repentance before God./ We must remember that all things that happen in our lives take place according to the plan of God because not even a sparrow falls to the ground without God's permission.

/Naomi was blessed by God because she returned to God after she realized that everything has happened according to his plan./ It says the following in 1 Samuel 2:6, 7.

/"The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up.
/The LORD sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts."

/God humbles us and exalts us. / Because Naomi realized this truth and returned to Bethlehem from Moab, she received God's care again.

/When we are in despair and are discouraged, we must repent and return to God, and we must receive blessings as Naomi did.

/Thank you.