

The God of the Ordinary  
**RUTH**

Ruth 1:6-22  
**A Bitter-Sweet Return**

**Turning Point:**

<sup>6</sup>Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the land of Moab, for she had heard in the land of Moab that the LORD had visited His people in giving them food.

(Ruth 1:6)

**A Bitter-Sweet Return**

**A. Naomi's Perspective**

1. Her character

- she displayed an evident faith in Yahweh
- she displayed a remarkable kindness and selfless love for her daughters-in-law

**A Bitter-Sweet Return**

**A. Naomi's Perspective**

1. Her character
2. Her condition

- she conveyed the hopelessness of her situation – no future with Naomi!

**A Bitter-Sweet Return**

**A. Naomi's Perspective**

1. Her character
2. Her condition
3. Her conclusion

- the hand of Yahweh was against her – He caused her bitter circumstances

## A Bitter-Sweet Return

### ➤ Naomi's Perspective: an evaluation

- she was right in affirming the sovereignty of God as the ultimate cause of her bitter circumstances
- she was wrong in believing that God was ultimately against her (*He was at work for her unimagined joy*)

## A Bitter-Sweet Return

### B. Ruth's Resolution

<sup>16</sup> But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people *shall be* my people, and your God, my God.

<sup>17</sup> Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the LORD do to me, and worse, if *anything but* death parts you and me."

(Ruth 1:16-17)

## A Bitter-Sweet Return

### B. Ruth's Resolution

- it meant leaving family and homeland
- it meant a life of widowhood and childlessness
- it was a permanent, lifelong commitment
- it was fundamentally a commitment to Yahweh and His people

## A Bitter-Sweet Return

### Ruth's Example of Faith:

- a faith that sees beyond the bitter circumstances and hopeless prospects
- a faith that is willing to forsake family, comfort, security and personal fulfillment