


Naomi decides to return to Judah.

Naomi is feeling hopeless

She does not want for her daughter-in-laws what she sees in her future.


13




“would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me.” Ruth 1:13



Ruth goes with her mother-in-law,
knowing full well the consequences of
her decision.




¹⁶ But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return 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. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.”
Ruth 1:16-17



¹⁹ So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, "Is this Naomi?" ²⁰ She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹ I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the Lord has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"

Ruth 1:19-21



Mara in Hebrew means bitter.

Naomi believes that God has dealt her a bad hand.

The Lord has afflicted me. God has placed this unfortunate situation upon me.

Naomi knew that land was tied to her husband, since she no longer had a husband or sons, the land would have to be sold.



Ruth realizes that they will live in poverty. She knew about gleaning.


Gleaning was the practice that once a field was harvested, the poor could glean what they could from the field. This provided for the poor.

When Ruth goes to the field of Boaz she is noticed. Boaz noticed but Ruth wants to know why. Boaz answers




11 But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. **12** The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!" **13** Then she said, "I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants.

Ruth 2:11-13



Naomi asks who Ruth had worked for because she had found favor.

Learning it was Boaz, Naomi was aware of the Levirate Marriage Law outlined in Deuteronomy 25:5-10



⁵“If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the dead man shall not be married outside the family to a stranger. Her husband’s brother shall go in to her and take her as his wife and perform the duty of a husband’s brother to her. ⁶ And the first son whom she bears shall succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel. Deuteronomy 25:5-6



Pages 124-127 convey the rest of the story.

Boaz wants to do things properly, so he seeks out the closest kinsmans-redeemer.

He first agrees to do this until he learns it comes with a price. He would have to marry Ruth. This could endanger his estate, which he does not want to do.

In keeping with the levirate marriage law he allows Boaz to take his place.



Boaz knew what it was to be a foreigner. His mother was Rahab, the prostitute.

Boaz had experienced on his own the being a foreigner in the land and so he understood what Ruth was going through.

When Boaz and Ruth have a son, that land is now back in the family hands.

God weaves the human story into His story once again.

His name was Obed, which in Hebrew means worker.



Ruth will become the great grandmother of King David.

Consider that Rahab was then the great great grandmother of King David.

Twenty eight generations after David a son would be born in Bethlehem, he would be the real kinsman-redeemer, who would redeem all people.

His name would be Jesus of Nazareth.