



## Man's Choice... God's Intervention

### Chapter 1: Part 2

**"Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God." *Ruth 1:16b***

#### A. Elimelech chose to leave Bethlehem...

*"In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him." *Vs 1:1**

1. Elimelech chose to expose his family to the false god of Moab rather than remain in Bethlehem and trust God. Moab's beginnings were shameful.
2. It is apparent by Naomi's welcome home to Bethlehem that many survived and some even prospered.
3. As a result of Elimelech's choice, Naomi ended up being left alone with no husband and no sons.

*"This left Naomi alone, without her two sons or her husband." *Vs 1:5b**

#### B. Naomi and her daughters-in-law set out...

*"So Naomi and her daughters-in-law got ready to leave Moab to return to her homeland. With her two daughters-in-law she set out from the place where she had been living, and they took the road that would lead them back to Judah." *Vs 1:6b-7**

1. Naomi told her daughters-in-law to go back.  
*"But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, 'Go back to your mothers' homes. And may the LORD reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me. May the LORD bless you with the security of another marriage.' Then she kissed them good-bye, and they all broke down and wept." *Vs 1:8-9**

2. Again, Naomi told her daughters-in-law to go back.  
*"No, my daughters, return to your parents' homes..." *Vs 1:12a**

3. For the third time, she told Ruth to go back and Ruth made her declaration.

*"Look," Naomi said to her, 'your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. You should do the same.'" *Vs 1:15**

#### C. Ruth's commitment to faithfulness...

*"But Ruth replied, 'Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us.'" *Vs 1:16-17**

1. Ruth was willing to stay with her widowed mother-in-law. Ruth was willing to accept the fact that she may remain a widow without children.
2. Ruth was willing to give up her national identity.
3. Ruth was willing to leave her family.
4. Ruth was willing to leave the god of her people for the one true God.
5. Ruth was willing to never return to her home, not even if Naomi died. Ruth was even willing to be buried with Naomi.

*"When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more." *Vs 1:18**

#### D. Naomi and Ruth were welcomed back...

*"When they came to Bethlehem, the entire town was excited by their arrival." *Vs 1:19b**

1. They were welcomed with excitement.  
*"...the entire town was excited..."*
2. Naomi no longer wanted to be called Naomi, or pleasant one, but Mara, meaning bitter.  
*"Don't call me Naomi," she responded. 'Instead, call me Mara, for the Almighty has made life very bitter for me.'" *Vs 1:20**
3. Naomi believed her life was now empty.  
*"I went away full, but the LORD has brought me home empty." *Vs 1:21**
4. They returned at the harvest! God's timing!  
*"They arrived in Bethlehem in late spring, at the beginning of the barley harvest." *Vs 1:22b**

#### E. How do we apply Price and Providence to our lives?

*"The righteous person faces many troubles, but the LORD comes to the rescue each time." *Psalm 34:19**

1. Naomi had fallen into a mindset of reason over faith. *"did whatever seemed right in their own eyes."* How often do you make decisions based on circumstances and what you think is right, rather than prayer and by faith? Choose faith!
2. Naomi had fallen into a mindset based on counsel of the present times rather than biblical principles. When you are seeking direction, do you follow the culture, the counsel of others, or biblical principles? Choose biblical principles!
3. Ruth chose to remain faithful despite all the discouraging picture that was painted and the disappointing circumstances she had faced. What if Ruth had not chosen a steadfast faithfulness? What if Ruth had not chosen the more difficult path? Are you willing to wait despite the circumstances? Are you willing to let God fulfill the promise rather than seek to fill it yourself? Choose faithfulness!
4. Ruth counted the cost and was willing to remain faithful and to go with Naomi to a strange land, serving a new God! Choose to count the cost!
5. God's intervention was coming...despite all that seemed to be going wrong. Ruth was willing to wait to see...Naomi presently chose to remain bitter based on the circumstances. Are you waiting for God's intervention...His providence to bring to reality His promises? Don't give up! God is working in spite of the circumstances! Choose to wait on God!

*"The Lord isn't really being slow about His promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent." *2 Peter 3:9**

*To begin a relationship with Jesus...*

*Text: I Choose Jesus to 88202*