

Can Anything Good Come From Moab
Ruth 1:1b-18

- I. An Awful Place (1-5)
 - A. God's stance against Moab
 - 1. Its founding (Genesis 19:30-36)
 - 2. Its exclusion (Deuteronomy 23:3-6)
 - B. A Place of Idolatry (Chemosh, similar to Baal)
 - C. It brings about a trio of deaths
- II. A Call To "Return" (6-18)
 - A. A form of return is used 9 times from verses 6-18)
 - 1. Physical return
 - 2. Also the word used for spiritual return: repent
 - B. Notice the hope that is present in verse 6
 - 1. The Lord visited His people
 - 2. Giving them food
- III. Ruth: A Picture of Sacrifice and Faith
 - A. What does she give up?
 - 1. The comfort of living in her homeland
 - 2. The closeness of her family
 - 3. Her own religious practices
 - 4. Her best chance at a normal life
 - 5. She faces the possibility of poverty, or much worse
 - B. What does she believe?
 - 1. Unlike Abraham, she receives no motivating promise
 - 2. She believes "in the Lord" at some level
 - 3. She seems motivated purely by a heart of love for Naomi
 - a. Not what is best for Ruth

- b. She seeks what is best for the other

- C. In Ruth's actions, we see a strong picture of Jesus
 - 1. Jesus left His "home"
 - 2. He became like those He would live among
 - 3. He did this not for Himself, but as an act of self-less love for others
 - 4. At the end, His name is exalted above all others (Phil. 2:9-11)