

Ruth 1:16,17

RUTH: A WOMAN OF GREAT FAITH

- I. The sad setting.
 - A. This history takes place during the time of the judges when everyone did what was right in their own eyes (Judges 21:25).
 - B. During a time of trial (famine), Elimelech severed himself and his family from the church and from his inheritance.
 - C. In Moab his troubles continued.
- II. Ruth revealed her great faith in several ways over a good period of time.
 - A. First, she was determined to return with Naomi to Judah, even swearing an oath (17b).
 - B. She evidenced her faith in many ways after arriving in Judah.
 1. Though she knew that Moabites were cursed (Deut. 23:3,4) she trusted God concerning every physical need.
 2. Her faith is evidenced in her humility when she initiates the idea of gleaning, which was only for the very poor (2:2).
 3. Her faith is evidenced in her work ethic and industry (2:12,23).
 4. Her faith is seen in her love of Naomi (4:15) and her willingness to obey Naomi's suggestions (2:22,23; 3:6).
 5. Her faith is evidenced in her approaching Boas as a potential redeemer of Elimelech's and Mahlon's inheritance (4:10).
 - C. God rewards her faith.
- III. Lessons.
 - A. Concerning her marriage, it was not her beauty or work ethic but her faith which Boaz saw.
 - B. Boaz's love of his neighbor made him willing to sacrifice and to redeem Mahlon's land.
 - C. God accomplishes His purposes and promises by the power of His unconditional and sovereign grace.