

## **Which Way to Turn?**

1. **They Set Out to the Promised Land (6-7).**
2. **Naomi Blesses Her Daughters-in-Law (8-9).**
3. **Both Women *Make an Initial Pledge to Naomi & YHWH* (10).**

Conclusion: We have seen how Naomi's family trusted in *what they could see* rather than in God and His promises to provide for them. Their faithlessness led to death as sin always does. Now Naomi *begins* her way back. Her daughters-in-law are now faced with a decision. Will they return with her or take comfort in the familiar among their own people? Either way, Naomi blesses them as God's people are to extend the grace He has lavished on us to others. It is obvious that they care for Naomi and she for them. So they commit to stay with Naomi and return with her to her people and her God.

## **Genesis 35:1-5**

God said to Jacob, “Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau.”<sup>2</sup> So *Jacob said to his household* and to all who were with him, “*Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments.*”<sup>3</sup> Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to *the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.*”<sup>4</sup> So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they had, and the rings that were in their ears. Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree that was near Shechem.<sup>5</sup> And as they journeyed, a terror from God fell upon the cities that were around them, so that they did not pursue the sons of Jacob.

## **First Timothy 5:3-8**

<sup>3</sup> *Honor widows* who are truly widows. <sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. <sup>5</sup> She who is truly a widow, *left all alone*, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, <sup>6</sup> but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. <sup>7</sup> Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. <sup>8</sup> But *if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household*, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

## **James 1:26-27**

<sup>26</sup> If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> *Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.*

## **Ezekiel 14:6-11**

<sup>6</sup> “Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: *Repent and turn away from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations.*”<sup>7</sup> For *any one of the house of Israel*, or of the *strangers who sojourn in Israel*, who separates himself from me, taking his idols into his heart and putting the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to a prophet to consult me through him, I the Lord will answer him myself. <sup>8</sup> And I will set my face against that man; I will make him a sign and a byword and *cut him off from the midst of my people*, and you shall know that I am the Lord. <sup>9</sup> And if the prophet is deceived and speaks a word, I, the Lord, have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand against him and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel. <sup>10</sup> And they shall bear their punishment—the punishment of the prophet and the punishment of the inquirer shall be alike—<sup>11</sup> *that the house of Israel may no more go astray from me*, nor defile themselves anymore with all their transgressions, but *that they may be my people and I may be their God*, declares the Lord God.”