

Title: "Come Home"

Text: Ruth 1

Target: There is prodigal in all of us. The desire to know for ourselves what many have warned us against is the propensity within us all. Many have gone before us, warning us, steering us away from the distant country of regrets and remorse, but the draw is magnetic. Unfortunately, the only aspects that seem to adhere are the unfortunate mishaps and mistakes that label you and shame you. The story of Ruth is one of Return, Reconciliation, and Restoration.

I. Grasp the Context: (Ruth 1:1) "judges ruled"

Key Verse: Judges 2:11 *And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals.*

A. Condition of the Land: "famine in the land"

1. Famine of Supplies: No food or access to food.
2. Famine of Spirituality (Time of Corruption/Confusion/Compromise)

B. Change of Location: "sojourn in the country of Moab" (Vs.1)

1. **Leaves the Promised Land:** (Bethlehem-House of Bread/Judah-Praise)
 - Father: Elimelech: "My God is King"
 - Mother: Naomi: "Pleasant"
2. **Lives in a Forbidden Land.** "*They lived there about ten years*" (Vs. 4)
 - **Agony of Moab:** Persistent opposition. (Numbers 23-25)
 - **Anguish in Moab:** Elimelech, Mahlon, and Chilion die. (Vs. 3,5)
 - **Alone in Moab:** 3 widows and no provisions. "*Left without*" (Vs. 5)

II. Glean the Concept: Ruth 1:6-18

A. Clear Reality: "then she arose" (Vs. 6) "she set out" (Vs. 7)

1. **God's Presence:** "*The Lord visited His people*" (Vs. 6)
2. **God's Provision:** "*given them food*" (Vs. 6)

B. Costly Return: "go return" and "turn back" (Vs. 8, 11-14)

C. Covenant Response: Ruth to Naomi (Vs. 16-17)

- "**Where you go, I will go**" -Not about Location, it's about Loyalty.
- "**Where you lodge, I will lodge**" -Not about a House, it's about a Home.
- "**Your people will be my people**" -Not about loose Affiliations, but loving Acceptance.
- "**Your God will be my God**" - Not about convenience, it's about commitment
- "**Where you die, I will die**" -Not about place, but about promise.

- ***“Let nothing, but death part me from you”***- Not just about a decision, but a direction.

Take Away: It's never too late to come back home to what you know to be true. Though you may not see it, He has been relentlessly pursuing after you, and one of the ways He shows you is consuming love by revealing it to you through those around you.