

Naomi and Ruth: Team Determination

Written by Rev. Manson B. Johnson
Friday, 28 September 2012 00:00



Naomi & Ruth: Team Determination And Destiny To Win Favor Over The Trials Of Life

Ruth 1:15-18; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Romans 8:28

THE BIG IDEA: Faith causes true believers to exhibit the type of care that exemplifies favor they desire for themselves.

Faith that causes favor to come upon people in life is often fueled by defining moments that stay with them for the rest of their lives. **Bible faith (God-kind) is only known by action.** We cannot see faith. One cannot feel faith. Faith is known and revealed by the corresponding action that accompanies it. When one believes by the God-kind of faith an

appropriate action

will occur and a rewarding experience is the result. There will come a time when those who believe will have to show by authentic action that they believe what they believe. Naomi and Ruth demonstrated their faith in God by taking risks with what they believed in their heart. They teach us much about doing what we believe. Naomi and Ruth walked (lived) in the way of faith to win favor with Boaz, the kinsman redeemer.

I. The divine rule for engaging THE WINNING WALK THAT WINS FAVOR FROM GOD is by faith. By faith we move from:

- **PROMISE** = God's covenant or agreement...to
- **PERSECUTION** = a defining act of testing...to
- **PRACTICE** = a demonstration of the God-kind of faith...to
- **PROSPERITY** = a supply or sufficiency from God

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II. Ruth's sacrifice: the goal of desire; 1:15-18

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ **A. The T.E.A.M. (together each accomplishes much)**

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Recruiting the team players

A.□□□□□ The famine (1:1–2): An Israelite family (Elimelech; his wife,

Naomi; and their two sons) leave their home in Bethlehem to escape a famine and move to Moab.

Reality sets in for the team

A.□□□□ The funerals (1:3–5): Elimelech dies, and his sons marry Moabite

women. Ten years later the sons die, and now Naomi and her daughters-in-law are widows.

B.□□□ The farewells (1:6–15)

1. Naomi's decision (1:6–7): Hearing that there is abundant food in Bethlehem, **Naomi determines** to return to her homeland. Both her daughters-in-law begin the journey with her.

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2. Naomi's despair (1:8–15): A bitter and broken Naomi gently urges her daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, to return to Moab and begin new lives. Orpah does, but Ruth stays with Naomi. {jcomments on}