

The Lord Has Afflicted Me

“Behold, the Redeemer” Series

Ruth 1:19-22, page 222

August 23, 2020

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God teaches us how to ponder and place our suffering at the feet of our Almighty God.

The Text: Ruth 1:19-22

19 So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, “Can this be Naomi?” 20 “Don’t call me Naomi,” she told them. “Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. 21 I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me.” 22 So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.

- 1) Ruth 1 wants us to see and feel the nightmare in which Naomi finds herself.

- 2) This text teaches us two things about the suffering we experience.
 - a) *We can neither blame God for our circumstances nor remove God’s purposes from our suffering.*

 - b) *Our suffering and God’s purposes are mysteriously woven together, accomplishing what is ultimately for the good of many and the glory of God.*

Response

Brothers and sisters, trust in the Lord Almighty, especially as you experience affliction and suffering.

Sunday Text Questions for Ruth 1:19-22 (“Behold, the Redeemer” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: Can you think of a time that something good came from the suffering in your life or the life of someone you know?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Why were the people in town “stirred” when Naomi and Ruth moved back to Bethlehem (v. 19)?
- 4) Is Naomi wrong to say that God “has dealt bitterly with me” and “brought calamity upon me” (vv. 20-21)?
- 5) Based on God’s Word, how is God involved in human suffering like Naomi experienced?
- 6) What biblical and doctrinal “railings” are needed when answering the above question to make sure we do not make God powerless over or the cause of evil and suffering?
- 7) How does the twice-used word “Almighty” (vv. 20-21) by Naomi give a clue to Naomi’s view of God and his purposeful power in the context of suffering? [hint: “Almighty” is used in Scripture to describe how God alone can turn brokenness into blessing]
- 8) How might the following statement explain the conflict presented by this passage: “Our suffering and God’s purposes are mysteriously woven together?”
- 9) How does this text rebuke simple explanations or formulas for thinking about our suffering?
- 10) In light of this text, how should a Christian manage or respond to the suffering they face – the stuff that really hurts?

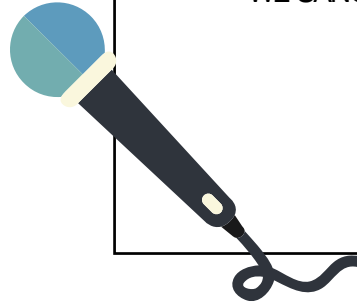
Further study this week: Key passages that use the phrase “God Almighty” (*El Shaddai*): Genesis 17 (Mon); Exodus 6 (Tues); Job 5 – note v. 17 (Wed); Job 22 (Thurs); Job 34 (Fri).

CHURCH NOTES

TODAY'S DATE: _____

A PRAYER REQUEST MENTIONED
THAT I COULD PRAY FOR THIS WEEK:

A FAVORITE LINE FROM A SONG
WE SANG TODAY:



WHO'S SINGING TODAY?

WHO'S PREACHING
TODAY?:

TITLE OF MESSAGE

TITLE OF MESSAGE

BIBLE VERSES:

HERE'S SOMETHING
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND TODAY:

I THINK THE
MAIN POINT OF THE MESSAGE WAS:

I THINK THE
MAIN POINT OF THE MESSAGE WAS:



ONE THING I CAN DO TO APPLY (LIVE OUT)
WHAT I LEARNED TODAY IS: