



The God of Famine and Funeral

“Behold, the Redeemer” Series

Ruth 1:1-5, page 222

August 9, 2020

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God teaches us to trust him in the famines and funerals we face in our lives.

The Text: Ruth 1:1-5

¹ In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ² The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³ But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, ⁵ and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

- 1) The Book of Ruth: a brief introduction.

- 2) Trust God in the famines and the funerals (vv. 1-5).
 - a) Major family crisis.

 - b) Names tell a story.

 - c) Death and vulnerability.

 - d) God is both Sovereign and Mysterious.

Response

O Christian, look and see the God of the Bible, the God who reigns over famines and funerals. Trust in him!

Sunday Text Questions for Ruth 1:1-5 (“Ruth” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: When things go bad in your life, how do you normally respond?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) V. 1 sets the context as “the days when the judges ruled.” What was the time of the Judges like in the history of the Old Testament people of God?
- 4) When the famine hit, Elimelech took his family and went to a foreign land. Why would an Israelite leave Israel and go to a foreign land with foreign gods, people with whom they were not allowed to worship, and no temple?
- 5) Is it possible Elimelech was not trusting God? How can we do the same thing in our lives today?
- 6) How might the author of Ruth be using the meaning of names to make a point (see below)?
 - Bethlehem – “land of bread”
 - Elimelech – “God is King”
 - Naomi – “pleasant, delightful” (note v. 20)
 - Malhon and Chilion – “sickly” and “failing”
- 7) Was it wrong for Malhon and Chilion to marry women who were not believers (Moabites)?
- 8) Should a Christian marry a non-Christian? Explain.
- 9) How would you handle not only famine but the funerals of your spouse and children?
- 10) How does the Bible and the Christian faith guide or comfort a person who faces such crises?

Further study this week: Read through the whole book of Ruth (only four chapters!) this week in preparation for the sermon series.

