

THE REAL LIFE OF RUTH

PART FOUR: WE'RE HERE, HE'S HERE

Ruth 1:18-22 • Pastor Dean Lancaster • April 28, 2024

We can't control the circumstances of life, but we can control how we respond to them. That's what faith is all about, daring to believe that God is working everything for our good even when we don't feel like it or see it happening.

In the worst circumstances we still have:

A Life

Ruth 1:19–20 *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?" "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter.*

Naomi left three graves in Moab, but God's goodness kept her alive and brought her back to Bethlehem.

Losses that leave us devastated but alive, means that God has a plan for our survival and eventual success.

It is through our worst trials that God's greatest triumphs come.

An Opportunity

Ruth 1:21 *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."*

Overcoming great loss and pain is a process in to which God asks us to consciously engage.

Occasionally it's the deepest pain which gives us the brightest glimpses of God's power and love.

Like Naomi, we sometimes discover that God's provision for us was with us all along.

An Almighty God

Ruth 1:22 **SO** Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.

God is the Chief Actor in every situation we encounter whether we realize it or not.

The Almighty God is intimately involved with our needs, hopes and pain.

When we fear God, we need not fear anything else.

A follower of Jesus can depend on the Almighty in every circumstance.

Take this with you...

It is beneficial to note that Naomi came back home in the Spring, a time of new life and new beginnings.

Following Jesus means we will experience a series of new beginnings.

Following Jesus means it's never too late to start over.

With God at our side, our resources are far greater than our burdens.