

# "Seeing God in Our Losses"

## *Ruth 1:1-5*

- I. God Does Not Exempt His People from Suffering (1:1-5)
  - A. Naomi lost her home in 1:1-2.
  - B. Naomi lost her spouse in 1:3-4a.
    1. She experienced the challenge of being a single parent.
    2. She watched her children make painful decision.
  - C. Naomi lost her children in 1:4b-5.
- II. God Sustains His People in Their Suffering (1:6-18)
  - A. Naomi decided to return home in 1:6-7.
  - B. Naomi tried to send her daughters-in-law back in 1:8-9.
  - C. Naomi insisted her daughters-in-law go home in 1:10-14.
    1. Orpah returned to her home.
    2. Ruth clung to her mother-in-law Naomi.
  - D. Naomi could not resist Ruth's resolve in 1:15-18.
- III. God Is Real to His People when They are Suffering (1:19-22)
  - A. Naomi confirmed God's control of her losses in 1:20-21.
  - B. Naomi learned that God filled the void of her losses in 1:22.
    1. God provided her with a devoted daughter-in-law.
    2. God provided her people with a link to the Messiah.

#### IV. Lessons Learned in Ruth 1:1-22

- A. It is never right to violate God's will, never.
- B. Specifically, it is never right to violate God's ***revealed*** will recorded in the Bible.
- C. No matter how viable an option may seem to our human eyes, it is not an option if it violates Scripture.
- D. We too have our own "Moabs." We often go our own way, or make decisions without consulting God's will and Word.
- E. It is never right to take "worldly shortcuts" like Elimelech.
- F. God's plan and purposes can never be thwarted in an ***ultimate*** way.
- G. Even after we've blown it by making foolish decisions, there is hope because of God's grace. God works providentially through the consequences of sinful choices we make, if we choose to repent and seek Him.
- H. We must consciously choose to allow the trials in our life to push us toward God, not tempt us to doubt His goodness, and to seek worldly shortcuts.
- I. We must consciously choose to all the pain of life and the bad decisions we make to push us toward God, not solidify our distance from Him.
- J. We must purposely allow God to use our sinful past to accomplish His glorious future (by first repenting). See **Proverbs 28:13**.

