

The Road Home

Text:

Ruth 1:1-7 NIV In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. (2) The man's name was Elimelech, his wife's name Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there. (3) Now Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. (4) They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, (5) both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband. (6) When she heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, Naomi and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. (7) With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and **set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.**

Judah – Praise

Bethlehem – House of Bread

Moab – “her mother’s father” – One born of incest –they worshipped Chemosh

Deuteronomy 23:3-6 NIV No Ammonite or Moabite or any of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, even down to the tenth generation. (4) For they did not come to meet you with bread and water on your way when you came out of Egypt, and they hired Balaam son of Beor from Pethor in Aram Naharaim to pronounce a curse on you. (5) However, the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam but turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loves you. (6) Do not seek a treaty of friendship with them as long as you live.

1. There will be times, that even in the “House of Bread” in the “Land of Praise” there will be famine.

A. Be careful of the little while...it isn't the length of time that matters...it is the place you choose and the attitude that you go with - sojourn “shrink back”

Hebrews 10:35-39 NIV So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. (36) You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. (37) For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. (38) But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." (39) But we are not of those who **shrink back** and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

B. The grass isn't always greener...it is just different and sometimes if it is greener, it is because it is over a “septic field.”

2. In the midst of “famine” God is still good and He provides places of His favor.

Ruth 1: (6) When she heard in Moab that **the LORD had come to the aid of his people** by providing food for them,

A. A “low place” in the favor of God is better than any “high place” in a cursed region.

Psalms 84:1-12 NIV For the director of music. According to *gittith*. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm. How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty! (2) My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. (3) Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young— a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God. (4) **Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you. Selah** (5) **Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.** (6) As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. (7) They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion. (8) Hear my prayer, O LORD God Almighty; listen to me, O God of Jacob. *Selah* (9) Look upon our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one. (10) **Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.** (11) For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. (12) O LORD Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.

3. The road back to the “Place of Praise” and the “House of Bread” starts with putting one foot in front of the other.

Ruth 1:7 NIV With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

Ruth 1:7 KJV Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they **went on the way to return** unto the land of Judah.

Questions:

1. Do you find yourself in the midst of a “famine?”
2. In what areas of your life have you left the “place of praise” because you thought the “grass was greener” somewhere else, only to discover that that place is a place of “lost destiny” and destruction?
3. Are you ready to take that first step “on the way” back down the road to a place of praise?