



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of July 16, 2023

Sermon 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.

If you were not able to listen to this week's sermon, then please refer to this link to listen prior to answering these questions, <http://hawaiiikaichurch.org/sermons/page/1>.

Discussion Questions

1. We know from Scripture and from experience that “In the world you will have tribulation” (John 16:33). What have you done or are you currently doing to avoid trials and suffering? As Christians, is this the right thing to do? Explain.
2. From this week's sermon what did you learn about the significance of the phrase, “***In the days when the judges ruled***”? How were those days comparable to modern 21st century America? (See Judges 21:25)
3. Elimelech and Naomi fled Bethlehem because of a famine and settled in Moab. Even though this seemed like the practical thing to do because it may have saved them from the famine, why was this such a bad idea? How can Christians today make the same mistake?
4. In spite of their best efforts to save themselves, Naomi finds herself in the most tragic of circumstances when her husband dies, and then her two sons also pass away. As devastating as this may be for “the woman”, why do you think God would bring such suffering into her life? (See Matthew 1:5-6,16)

5. Although you will not be a forebear of the Messiah, think about the trials you are experiencing now or may have experienced in the past. Why do you think God allows these trials, tribulations and suffering to enter your life? Does it make a difference to know the reason for your suffering? Why or why not?