



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of July 23, 2023

Sermon Text Ruth 1:6-18

[6] Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them food. [7] So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. [8] But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. [9] The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. [10] And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." [11] But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? [12] Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, [13] would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me." [14] Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. [15] And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." [16] But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. [17] Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." [18] And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

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. In this week's sermon we heard that the story of Ruth could be called the "Gospel of Ruth". Do you agree? Why or why not. How is Naomi's story similar to our own?
2. Why did Naomi encourage her daughters-in-law to leave her and return to Moab? Would you have done the same? Why or why not? If you were Orpah or Ruth, what choice would you have made?
3. Of Naomi's two daughters-in-law, Orpah chose to return to the relative safety and security of Moab, while Ruth chose an uncertain and seemingly hopeless future by staying with Naomi. In hindsight, from a Christian perspective, it is easy to see which woman made the better choice. What should we learn from this?

4. In Naomi's day, to be a widow and childless resulted in a very very difficult life. Yet, we heard in the sermon that her tragic situation was actually an act of God's grace. How could this be? How does affliction in our lives reveal God's grace to us?
5. Like Naomi, Ruth and Orpah, we all come to crossroads in our lives where we are forced to make a choice between two diverging paths. What are the signposts that help us choose the correct path and why is it sometimes hard to follow these signposts?