



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of July 30, 2023

Sermon Text Ruth 1:19-2:3

19 So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, “Is this Naomi?” **20** She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. **21** I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the Lord has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?” **22** So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

2:1 Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. **2** And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor.” And she said to her, “Go, my daughter.” **3** So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech.

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. What do you think about the idea that “suffering and death is the way to life”? Do you agree? Why, or why not?
2. What helps you as a Christian see the goodness of God in the midst of suffering? Alternatively, what prevents you from becoming “Mara” (bitter)?
3. In verse 1:20, Naomi brought four accusations against God. Although there could have been elements of truth in her accusations, what did Naomi fail to understand about Yahweh? What did she fail to recognize about herself?
4. A main point in our sermon this week is that nothing happens simply by “chance”. If we truly believe that everything is ordained by a sovereign God, how might this be “crippling” for some people? As Christians, how can we live knowing that every decision, every action, and every incident is in the hands of a providential God?