

# **May the Lord Show You Kindness**

Ruth 1

# Background

- Verse 1: “In those days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land”
- Judges 21:25 “In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.”
- “The book of Ruth serves as a hinge in the progress of salvation history.” -- Luke Ijaz
- “Now Elimelek, Naomi’s husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other named Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.” (Ruth 1:3-5)

# Naomi

- “When Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she had her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there.” (Ruth 1:6)
- Her prayer: “May the Lord show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.” (Ruth 1:8b-9)
- “The Lord’s hand has turned against me!” (Ruth 1:13b)
- “Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter.”

# Ruth

- “But Ruth replied, ‘Don’t urge me to leave you or turn back from you. Where you go I will go and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.’” Ruth 1:16-18
- Takes the name Yahweh on her lips- “May the LORD...”
- Ruth is considering herself part of the covenant people of God

# God

- “The Lord had come to the aid of his people” (v. 6)
- “May the Lord show you kindness” (v. 8)
- “The Lord’s hand has turned against me!” (v. 13)
- “Your God my God” (v. 16)
- “May the Lord deal with me” (v. 17)
- “The Almighty has made my life very bitter” (v. 20)

# Kindness

- Heseb- loving-kindness. Steadfast love and faithfulness
- Love is patient. Love is kind (1 Corinthians 13)
- “Kindness is a concept that is so expansive, complex, and nuanced that it eludes a simple definition, and yet we know it when we experience it.” -- Jonathan Cruse
- “The essence of kindness is being thoughtful for others more than for myself in any particular situation. To be kind means to want to help others, to encourage or comfort them, to do something that serves or benefits them. In order to be kind to others, I need to put myself in their shoes and think what I would most want or need them to do for me—and then do it for them.” -Christopher Wright