



What outside activities do you enjoy in the summer?

SERMON REVIEW

Does Naomi's situation in Ruth 1 remind you of a time or times in your life when loss and grief overwhelmed you? Describe how your perspective of God is affected by emotional and physical pain. What other circumstances alter your view of God?

Have you ever been angry at God and accused him of wanting to make your life miserable? Describe the occasion.

Why do you think God uses negative circumstances to fulfill His purposes? Are there times in your life when God has used tragedy for a greater purpose?

Naomi's advice to Ruth to go back to her gods may sound shocking on the lips of an Israelite. To what gods are you tempted to return when life is turned upside down and the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ seems to be remote?

How can God's ultimate purpose to exalt his Son over all creation give you comfort and perspective in the changing times of your life?

Ruth's first speech is an eloquent display of loyalty. It would have been much easier for Ruth to return home and start fresh. What do you think motivated her to stay with Naomi? Read 1:17. What does this passage demonstrate about Ruth's commitment to Naomi?

Who or what are you committed to in your life? Are you as committed to God as Ruth was to Naomi?



What else have you learned from the Bible about the wisdom of generosity for this life and eternity?

By staying with Naomi, Ruth distances herself from Chemosh, the god of Moab (see 1 Kgs 11:7) and aligns herself with Yahweh. Naomi had just claimed that "the hand of Yahweh has gone out against me" (Ruth 1:13), making Ruth's commitment to Yahweh all the more impressive. How does Ruth's loyalty to Naomi exemplify God's loyalty to His people?

How should God's promises of loyalty to us (Leviticus 26:11-13, Ezekiel 11:17-20) affect our lives (see 2 Cor 6:14-7:1)?

Naomi attributes her misfortune to God. Her speech here can be compared to Job's speeches. She uses a name for God—Shaddai (or "Almighty")—found throughout the book of Job. Like Job, she has lost her family and security. And like Job, she feels that God has caused her to suffer and has now turned against her (Job 6:4; 16:9). Is there any truth in Naomi's statement? What about it is false?

Read God's response to Job's complaints (Job 38:1-41:34). What does God emphasize in His speeches? How can His response comfort those who are experiencing trials? How can remembering God's ultimate plan for Naomi and Ruth help you as you go through trials?

The book of Ruth closes with a genealogy pointing to David and eventually to Jesus (see Matt 1:1-17). God uses the seemingly minor events of this story—events that affect only a few people—as part of His larger plan to bring salvation to the world. What seemingly insignificant events in your life has God used to achieve a greater purpose?