

2—*Ruth 1:6-22* (Naomi's Pain, Ruth's Decision, & Journey)

I. Introduction.

- A. Anyone had to make a big decision, right after a big loss?
- B. What are some of the biggest commitments a person might make?
- C. Have you ever made a poor or great relationship commitment others might question?

II. Scripture.

- A. ***Ruth 1:6-18***—"6*Then she arose with her daughters-in-law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited His people in giving them bread.* 7*Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.* 8*And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, 'Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.* 9*The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband.'* Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept. 10*And they said unto her, 'Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.'* 11*And Naomi said, 'Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? Are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?* 12*Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have a husband also tonight, and should also bear sons;* 13*Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? Would ye stay for them from having husbands? Nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me.'* 14*And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law; but Ruth clave unto her.* 15*And she said, 'Behold, thy sister-in-law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister-in-law.'* 16*And Ruth said, 'Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:* 17*Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more*

also, if ought but death part thee and me.’¹⁸ When she saw that she was steadfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.”

- B. **Ruth 1:19-22**—¹⁹*So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, ‘Is this Naomi?’²⁰ And she said unto them, ‘Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.²¹ I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?’²² So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.”*

III. Application.

- A. How do you view God when several big bad circumstances occur?
- B. How can we think about what God may want to do long-term in us?
- C. How can you be fully compassionately committed to God and others in their darkest hour?