

## “Elimelech & Naomi – *Man’s Way vs God’s Way*” *Ruth 1:1-6*

### Open:

- A time of famine comes to Israel and Elimelech decides to move his family to Moab. **vs. 1**
  - Sojourn = To dwell for a time; to live in a place as a temporary resident.
  - This indicates that Elimelech did not intend to stay for a long period of time, he simply sought to provide for his family and then return home.
- Elimelech and his family get comfortable in Moab and begin to grow roots and settle down. **vs. 2**
- Elimelech dies and the family remains in Moab. **vs. 3**
- Mahlon and Chilion, Naomi’s two sons, get married to Moabite woman. **vs. 4**
- Naomi, Mahlon, and Chilion had been living in Moab now for about ten years when Mahlon and Chilion die, leaving their wives Orpah and Ruth as widows. **vs. 5**
- Naomi tells her daughter-in-laws that she is returning home and that they should do the same. **vs. 6**
  - Notice how the Lord provided for the needs of His people during a time of need, but because they had moved away, they did not experience that miraculous provision. **vs. 6**

### Tran:

- Sin will keep you longer than you want to stay. **vs. 1-2**
- Sin will cost you far more than you want to pay. **vs. 3, 5**

## **I. We must realize that there will be times of difficulty in life; but we are to remain dependent on God’s promise and His ability to provide for our needs.**

- Elimelech and Naomi choose to depend on their own ability to provide for their family instead of trust in the promises of God. **Phil. 4:19** *“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”*
- A. I must realize that God knows my needs. **Mt. 6:7-8** *“But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. [8] Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.”*
- B. I must realize that God not only can, but will provide for my needs. **Mt. 7:7-10** *“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: [8] For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. [9] Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? [10] Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? [11] If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”*
- C. I must realize that the only way to be content during the times of my need is to remain dependent on God’s promises. **Mt. 6:25-30** *“Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? [26] Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? [27] Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? [28] And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: [29] And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. [30] Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?”*

## II. When the times of difficulty come, we need to recognize that trusting in man's ability to solve the problem will not eliminate the difficulties of life.

- Elimelech and Naomi thought leaving where God had placed them would eliminate the struggle, but they discovered it only complicated it. **Is. 31:1** *“Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!”*
- A. We need to build our lives on the principles of God's word, not man's ability to predict and solve the difficulties we face in life. **Mt. 7:24-27** *“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: [25] And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. [26] And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: [27] And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”*
- B. Those who trust in their own ability to solve the problem will find themselves empty and destitute of God's provisions in life. **Jer. 17: 5-6** *“Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. [6] For he shall be like the heath in the desert, **and shall not see when good cometh**; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.”*
- C. Only those who trust in God's ability to fulfill His promises will find themselves fruitful and satisfied in the times of difficulty. **Jer. 17:7-8** *“Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. [8] For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.”*

## III. We need to realize that when we leave the place God has told us to stay, then we leave the protection and provision God promised to provide.

- Elimelech and Naomi forfeited their ability to see God provide for their needs because they chose to seek their own provisions. Do you want to hear about God's provisions or do you want to experience God's power? **Ruth 1:6** *“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.”*
- A. God is our refuge and help in trouble. **Ps. 46:1-3** *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. [2] Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; [3] Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.*
- B. God is our provisions in the time of need. **Ps. 46:4-7** *“There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. [5] God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early. [6] The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted. [7] The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.”*
- C. The only way to experience God's protection and provision is to be still and experience God's ability to fulfil his promises. **Ps. 46:8-11** *“Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth. [9] He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. [10] Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. [11] The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.”*

➤ *“If you flee during the time of famine, you will forfeit your ability to experience the provisions of Faith.”*

### Close:

- Don't run from the difficulties God has brought to you.
- Stay trusting in God's ability to provide for you needs.

➤ **Is. 26:3**

*“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”*