

Women of Honor

Ruth 1:1 – 2:23; 4:16 – 22

12 May 2019 A.M.

Series: Mother's Day

Tragedy Strikes 1: 1 - 5

- Move to Moab due to famine, but Naomi loses husband and sons.
 - We would be wise to just note that tragedy can strike anyone.
 - The mindset of the Jews is that there is no chance.
- The question that is often asked when tragedy strikes.
 - Where is God?
 - God can directly intercept and prevent tragedy or choose to not intercept it.

Going Home 1: 6 - 18

- Beginning the journey home to Bethlehem, Naomi seeks the best for her daughter-in-law's.
 - There was little for them in Israel.
 - They would always be foreigners and treated poorly.
 - In Moab they could remarry.
- After much persuasion Orpah returns home.
 - Ruth refuses to return home.
 - Ruth makes solemn oath proving her faith in God.
 - This speaks well to Naomi's character and love.

The Home Crowd Reaction 1: 19 - 22

- Amazement at the difference in Naomi.
 - Naomi speaks of her bitterness and loss.
 - Naomi, like Job felt God's hand in it.
 - Naomi felt abandoned by God, maybe even punished by Him.
 - Let's not be too critical of Naomi's theology, she is speaking from a crushed spirit.
- The love between Ruth and Naomi is like a daughter to mother.
 - They returned at a good time.

God's Providence Revealed 2: 1 - 22

- God saw to it that Ruth gathers in Boaz's field.
 - Boaz is Kinsmen Redeemer (Hebrew – go-el)
 - She is protected and treated well by him.
 - Could this indicate a spark of romance?
 - Ruth gathers between 30 – 50 pounds of barley.
- Ruth reports back to Naomi.
 - Naomi is amazed at the amount Ruth collected.
 - When Naomi learns about Boaz, her gears start clicking.
 - The evidence in the end is that God was indeed providentially providing for these two women.

Conclusion

- Chapter three through four with a few twists and turns ends with the marriage of Boaz to Ruth.
- The proof is clear that God was with these widows through their tragedy and providentially provided for them.
- Chapter 4: 16 – 17 also teach us that they get to be in the genealogical hall of fame with Ruth being the great grandmother of David.