**Week of Aug 11, 2019**

**Ruth 1:6-11, 14-18**

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?

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.

**Understanding the Scriptures**

In today’s lesson it is a beautiful story of love, commitment, and devotion between a mother-in-law and a daughter-in-law. The scene picks up in Moab to where Naomi’s husband Elimelek, which means “my God a king”, had moved when a famine hit Bethlehem. Bethlehem is translated “house of bread”. God had promised the Israelites that if they were obedient, there would be plenty of provisions in Jerusalem. Elimelek and his family would have travelled east from Bethlehem to Moab, which meant they would have had to go through Judean wilderness near the Dead Sea and cross the Jordan River. Naomi’s name means “my amicable or pleasant one.” Naomi’s husband unexpectedly died. Naomi’s two sons married Moabite women (Ruth and Orpah), then ten years later, Naomi’s sons also died, leaving Naomi and her daughters-in-law as widows.

Naomi heard the famine was over in the land of Judah, so she decided to go back home. Naomi, along with her daughters-in-law, left on their journey. Naomi urged her daughters-in-law to find new husbands for their own economic security. After Naomi’s insisting, Orpha tearfully kissed her mother-in-law and said her goodbyes and went back to Moab, while Ruth clung to her mother-in-law. When Naomi realized that Ruth was not turning around, she quit urging her and the tow women continued their journey to Bethlehem. When Naomi returned to Bethlehem, she told the townspeople that she had change her name to Mara, which meant “bitter”. Unbeknownst to Naomi, in Bethlehem, she would soon come to realize that God’s hand would reach out for her when God blessed her and Ruth with a Kinsman-redeemer!

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