

Responding to Disappointment with God

Finding Hope in a Disappointing World | Dr. Rydelnik

Ruth 1:1-22

Weeping (Suffering)	Working (Gleaning)	Waiting (Asking)	Wedding (Redeeming)
A Faith that is Determined	A Faith that is Diligent	A Faith that is Dependent	A Faith that produces Deliverance
Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4

The Setting...

• The Famine 1:1a

Perhaps the famine was a sign of God's discipline. *Judges 6:3-4*

Perhaps the famine was a sign of God's displeasure. *Deut 11:16-17*

• The Reaction 1:1b-2

Elimelech intended a temporary stay in Moab

Ultimately it became a long sojourn.

• The Consequences 1:3-5

The death of Elimelech

Marriages to Moabite Women

The Deaths of both sons.

• The Circumstances 1:6-13

For Naomi-

An elderly widow-hood alone in a foreign land

For Ruth and Orpah-

Childless widow-hood without hope.

The Principle...

Our response to disappointment will determine our walk with God.

• Like Elimelech, we can respond with disobedience.

During the time of the judges, there was a famine in the land.

A man left Bethlehem in Judah with his wife and two sons to live in the land of Moab for a while. The man's name was Elimelech, and his wife's name was Naomi. The names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They entered the land of Moab and settled there. (1:1-2)

- Like Naomi, we can respond with despair.

... my life is much too bitter for you to share, because the LORD's hand has turned against me." "Don't call me Naomi. Call me Mara," she answered, "for the Almighty has made me very bitter. I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has pronounced judgment on me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?" (20-21)

- Like Orpah, we can respond with desertion.

Orpah kissed her mother-in-law ... Naomi said, "Look, your sister-in-law has **gone back** to her people and to her god. Follow your sister-in-law. (1:14-15)

- Like Ruth, we can respond with determination.

But Ruth replied: Do not persuade me to leave you or go back and not follow you. For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you live, I will live; your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May Yahweh punish me, and do so severely, if anything but death separates you and me. When Naomi saw that Ruth was **determined** to go with her, she stopped trying to persuade her. (1:16-18)

We must determine to be faithful to our spiritual mentors.

We must determine to be faithful to the Lord's people.

We must determine to be faithful to the Lord Himself.

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GIVING UPDATE

GENERAL FUND

Planned for January:	\$832,163
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