

# PATHFINDERS – ST. LAWRENCE

RUTH 1 - 10 JAN. 2020



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| <h2>Intro</h2> | <p>In this first chapter of Ruth, we are introduced to Naomi's family. Naomi's husband, Elimelech, decided to move his family to the region of Moab. So his family left Bethlehem and travelled to Moab, where they would spend the next several years. However, tragedy struck while in Moab. Elimelech died, and some years later, their sons Mahlon and Kilion died as well. Naomi was reduced to widowhood in the company of her two daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah. What will they do? Where will they go now? Where was God in all of this? For a woman in ancient Israel that was unmarried, it was very difficult to survive.</p> |
| <h2>Read</h2>  | <p><b>Ruth 1 (NIV UK)</b></p> <p>Read it here -</p> <p><a href="https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ruth+1&amp;version=NIVUK">https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ruth+1&amp;version=NIVUK</a></p> <p>Or if you prefer, listen to David Suchet read it here -</p> <p><a href="https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/suchet/nivuk/Ruth.1">https://www.biblegateway.com/audio/suchet/nivuk/Ruth.1</a></p>  |
| <h2>Watch</h2> | <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0h1eoBeR4Jk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0h1eoBeR4Jk</a></p> <div data-bbox="411 1585 727 1765"></div> <p>This is an excellent video from The Bible Project that is an overview of the book of Ruth and what it means in the big picture of the Bible.</p>   |
| <h2>Think</h2> | <p>Ruth and Naomi were left in a very hard spot. In Ancient Israel, women did not carry on trades like men did, and were often reliant on their husbands in order to survive. Without a husband, many women were forced into homelessness, begging, and starvation. This time in Israel was a scary time too, as this was the time of the book of the Judges, when it says that <i>"In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit."</i> (Judges 21:25). The</p>  |

future looked very bleak for Ruth and Naomi. Yet, in the middle of this hopelessness, Ruth decided to cling to Naomi in faith. Ruth made a bold declaration of faith.

**What did Ruth say to Naomi when Naomi told her to leave her? What is significant about Ruth's reply?**

Naomi has a breakdown at the end of the chapter when both she and Ruth arrive back in Israel from Moab. Naomi says: *'Don't call me Naomi,' she told them. 'Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me.'* Naomi had really reached the end of her rope. She was filled with hopelessness and sorrow and in her eyes, she had nothing left for which to live. Elsewhere in the Bible, we see people being honest with God, telling Him everything that is in their hearts (King David in Psalm 5, 6, 10, 51 and many other places). Far from God being someone we must hide something from, He shows us in His Word examples of people who feel hopeless and alone and encourages us by showing us in His Word that we can express these feelings of hopelessness and loneliness to Him honestly, holding nothing back.

**Is there something that you have been holding back from sharing with God? Are there hard things in your life right now that you can be honest with God about and ask Him to come heal your heart of?**

Did you catch the significance of the last verse of the chapter? It is worth taking another look at it if you missed it! It was the beginning of the barley harvest. Little do Ruth and Naomi know of the wonderful grace and provision that God has stored up for them in the future. Things looked so scary when they got back to Israel. Did Ruth and Naomi have any food? Did they have any money? No matter, their want is about to turn into overflowing provision from God.

**It is hard to trust God sometimes in the middle of extreme hardship. This Scripture show us just what God is up to in the middle of our pain, though. In Ruth and Naomi's case, he brought them back to Israel at just the right time. 2020 was a hard year, and this year will no doubt bring its own hardships too. But God shows us in His Word that He is doing things behind the scenes even when we aren't aware. Have a sit down and think about the ways God has been providing for you this year. Maybe even grab your parents, sit down with them, and think with them too about the ways that God has been looking over you and providing for you in the middle of everything. What is God up to in your life?**

Listen



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zY5o9mP22V0>

This song, "It Is Well" is a hymn that reminds us that though all around us there may be difficulty, God has still blessed us and is still doing so, even if it is hard to see.

## Pray

- Use the words of the Psalms above to pray to God and consider if you are holding back anything from Him.
- Decide today to be honest with God about how you are feeling. He knows your heart and whatever pain you might be experiencing. Ask His help to bring every care that you have to Him, and for help remembering that He is always with you, no matter how scary times get.
- Ask God to help you remember the good things that He gives you every day.