

Ruth's Critical Decision to Follow Naomi and the LORD: A Picture of Total Commitment Ruth 01:06–22

1. ***The decision of Naomi to return to the promised land:
The picture of a wrong motive for returning to the LORD***
 - a. To secure food
 - b. Not necessarily to repent or to seek fellowship with God
2. ***The decision of Orpah to return to Moab:
A picture of choosing the world over the LORD***
 - a. Naomi's spiritual insensitivity
 - 1) She set out to return with Orpah and Ruth
 - 2) She soon encouraged Orpah and Ruth to return home:
A picture of spiritual insensitivity
 - The reason:
So they could remarry
 - Their devoted response:
They would remain with Naomi
 - b. Naomi's carnal, fleshly insistence
 - 1) Because she could not bear any more sons to become their husbands

- 6 When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there.
- 7 With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.
- 8 Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me.
- 9 May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband." Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud
- 10 and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people."
- 11 But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands?

• She was too old • They could not wait even if she did remarry and bear sons 2) Because they should no longer suffer her bitter trials of sorrow and poverty — all due to God’s hand of chastisement c. Orpah made the decision to return to Moab (the world) 3. <i>The decision of Ruth to wholly commit her life to the LORD and His people: A picture of total commitment and of conversion</i> a, Ruth’s love: Clung to Naomi b. Naomi s insistence c. Ruth’s profound, total commitment: A picture of conversion 1) A commitment to Naomi, to family 2) A commitment to God and to God’s people 3) A commitment until death — a commitment that was total, final, unshakable: Sworn by an oath	12 Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me — even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons — 13 would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD’s hand has turned against me!” 14 At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. 15 “Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.” 16 But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.”
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d. Naomi's acceptance of Ruth's decision 4. <i>The decision of Naomi to confess her need, the terrible effects of a worldly life</i> a. The arrival in Bethlehem: People were shocked at her appearance b. The confession of Naomi: Had suffered the hand of God's chastisement 1) A bitter life 2) An empty life, losing everything 3) A life of affliction 4) A life of tragedy c. The date of their arrival in Bethlehem: At the very beginning	18 When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her. 19 So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?" 20 "Don't call me Naomi, " she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. 21 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." 22 So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.
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