



August 4, 2024
 Dr. Rick Mandl
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The Power of Decisions

The Prodigal Family

A _____ Decision That Seemed _____

¹In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him. ²The man's name was Elimelech, and his wife was Naomi. Their two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. And when they reached Moab, they settled there. ³Then Elimelech died, and Naomi was left with her two sons. ⁴The two sons married Moabite women. One married a woman named Orpah, and the other a woman named Ruth. But about ten years later, ⁵both Mahlon and Kilion died. This left Naomi alone, without her two sons or her husband.

Ruth 1:1-5

Naomi's Return To Bethlehem

A _____ Decision With A _____ Motive

⁶Then Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had blessed his people in Judah by giving them good crops again. So Naomi and her daughters-in-law got ready to leave Moab to return to her homeland. ⁷With her two daughters-in-law she set out from the place where she had been living, and they took the road that would lead them back to Judah."

Ruth 1:6-7

At The Crossroads - Defining Decisions

Naomi's Decision - To _____

Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law,
 'Go back to your mothers' homes...'

Ruth 1:8a

But Naomi replied, 'Return to your parents' homes. . . Things are far more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord himself has raised his fist against me.'

Ruth 1:11-13

¹⁹So the two of them continued on their journey. When they came to Bethlehem, the entire town was excited by their arrival. 'Is it really Naomi?' the women asked. ²⁰'Don't call me Naomi,' she responded. 'Instead, call me Mara, for the Almighty has made life very bitter for me. ²¹I went away full, but the Lord has brought me home empty. Why call me Naomi when the Lord has caused me to suffer and the Almighty has sent such tragedy upon me?'"

Ruth 1:19-21

Orpah's Decision - To _____

"We want to go with you to your people."

Ruth 1:10

"And again they wept together, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye."

Ruth 1:14

Ruth's Decision - To _____

"But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!"

Ruth 1:16-17

Memory Verse

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
 do not depend on your own understanding.
 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."

Proverbs 3:5-6

MY NEXT STEP IS TO...

- Make the decision to begin to follow Jesus as my Lord and Savior for the first time today
- Memorize Proverbs 3:5-6
- Read through the book of Ruth this week
- Do my best to attend all four weeks of the Ruth series
- Pray for the Living Water Mission team, along with students and leaders attending Hume Lake, this week.





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A Wrong Decision That Seemed Right

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Ruth 1:1-5

Naomi's Return To Bethlehem

A Right Decision With A Wrong Motive

⁶Then Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had blessed his people in Judah by giving them good crops again. So Naomi and her daughters-in-law got ready to leave Moab to return to her homeland. ⁷With her two daughters-in-law she set out from the place where she had been living, and they took the road that would lead them back to Judah."

Ruth 1:6-7

At The Crossroads - Defining Decisions

Naomi's Decision - To Be Miserable

Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law,
 'Go back to your mothers' homes...'

Ruth 1:8a

But Naomi replied, 'Return to your parents' homes. . . Things are far more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord himself has raised his fist against me.'

Ruth 1:11-13

¹⁹So the two of them continued on their journey. When they came to Bethlehem, the entire town was excited by their arrival. 'Is it really Naomi?' the women asked. ²⁰'Don't call me Naomi,' she responded. 'Instead, call me Mara, for the Almighty has made life very bitter for me. ²¹I went away full, but the Lord has brought me home empty. Why call me Naomi when the Lord has caused me to suffer and the Almighty has sent such tragedy upon me?'"

Ruth 1:19-21

Orpah's Decision - To Bail Out

"We want to go with you to your people."

Ruth 1:10

"And again they wept together, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye."

Ruth 1:14

Ruth's Decision - To Believe God

"But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!"

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