

GLEANINGS
FROM

RUTH





Series Outline

- **The Turning Point: Ruth 1:1-18**
- **Dealing with Bitterness Ruth 1:19-22**
- **Not Reaping the Edges Ruth 2:1-7**
- **The Kinsman Redeemer Ruth 2:8-23**
- **The Threshing Floor Ruth 3**
- **When Responsibility Knocks... Ruth 4**



Ruth 1:1-18

**The
Turning
Point**





Eleanor Roosevelt

“One’s philosophy is not best expressed in words. It is expressed in the choices one makes. In the long run, we shape our lives and we shape ourselves. The process never ends until we die. And the choices we make are ultimately our responsibility.”



First Point

Turning Away from God



Ruth 1

1 In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.



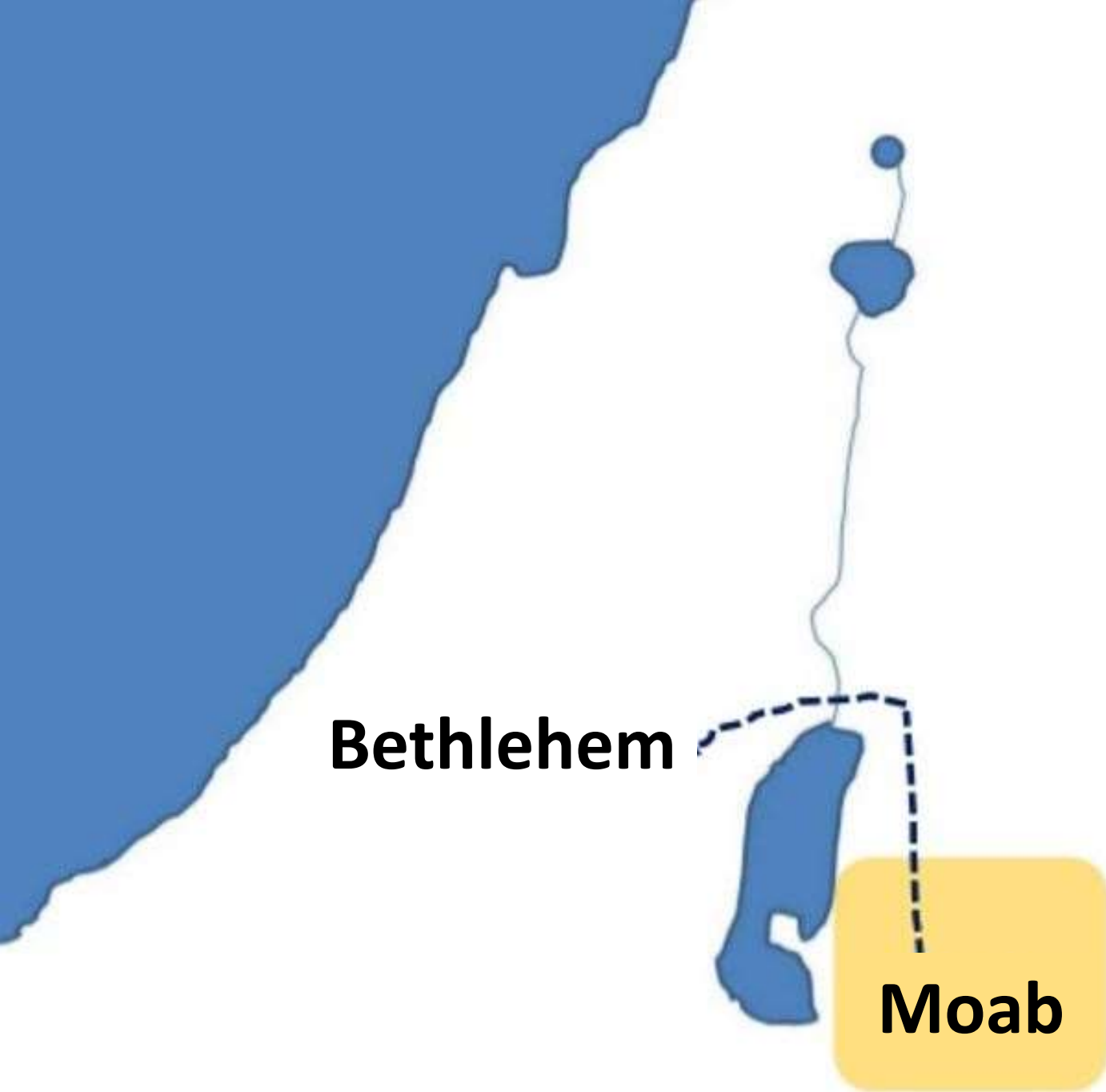
2 The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there.



³ But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons.



4 These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, ⁵ and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.



- **About 30-60 miles**
(depending on route)
- **7-10 days on foot**
(due to rugged terrain)



**Repeatedly, when one
moves eastward in the
Bible, it is a move away
from God!**



Intermarriage with Foreigners – Deut. 21 (NIV)

¹⁰ When you go to war against your enemies and the LORD your God delivers them into your hands and you take captives, ¹¹ if you notice among the captives a beautiful woman and are attracted to her, **you may take her as your wife.**



Intermarriage with Moabites – Deut. 23 (NIV)

³ No Ammonite or Moabite or any of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, even down to the tenth generation.



Intermarriage with Moabites – Deut. 23 (NIV)

4 For they did not come to meet you with bread and water on your way when you came out of Egypt, and they hired Balaam son of Beor from Pethor in Aram Naharaimⁿ to pronounce a curse on you.



Putting the Pieces Together





Second Point

Turning Back to God

Ruth 1

6 Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them food.



⁷ So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.



8 But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.



⁹ The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!” Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.



¹⁰ And they said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” ¹¹ But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands?”



12 Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons,



13 would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me.”



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14 Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. 15 And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.”



**Repeatedly, when one
moves westward in the
Bible, it is a move towards
God!**

Orpah and Ruth

RU 1:14 At this they wept again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, but Ruth clung to her.



Naomi and Ruth

¹⁵ “Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.”





Third Point

The Valley of Decision



16 But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to

return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. **Your people**

my people, your God my

God. ^{17a} **Where you die I will die,**

and there will I be buried. (Ruth 1)

**17^b May the LORD do so
to me and more also if
anything but death
parts me from you.”**

**18 And when Naomi
saw that she was
determined to go with
her, she said no more.**





1 Kings 18:21a

And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.”



Joel 3:14

Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.



Harry Emerson Fosdick

“He who chooses the beginning of a road chooses the place it leads to. It is the means that determine the end.”



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