

Finding Hope In A Disappointing World

Lesson Four • Ruth 1:14-18

Grace at the Bottom of the Barrel

The Principle:

Our response to disappointment in life will determine our WALK WITH GOD.

Our Response to Disappointment in Life:

1. Like Orpah, We Can Respond With DESERTION! *Ruth 1:14-15*

Shedding Orpah Tears:

Orpah shows us that it's possible to HEAR of God's grace and yet turn our backs on God.

2. Like Ruth, We Can Respond With DETERMINATION! *Ruth 1:16-18*

Ruth's Act of Commitment:

"Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth CLUNG to her."

Ruth's Pledge of Commitment:

Ruth pledged to ABANDON all her prior allegiances and to ADOPT Naomi's family and faith as her own in life, for life, and beyond life.

*"Entreat me not leave you, or to turn back from following after you;
For wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge;
Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.
Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried.*

The Lord do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me." Ruth 1:16-17

Ruth Found Grace at the Bottom of the Barrel:

- Ruth found a new DIRECTION in life.

- Ruth found a new PLACE to belong.

- Ruth found a new PEOPLE to love.

- Ruth found a new GOD to worship.

- Ruth found a new PEACE in her heart.

Ruth Is Proof...

That God is neither dead nor distant, but is at WORK in the worst of times to accomplish His good purposes.

Finding Grace at the Bottom of the Barrel:

Respond to your disappoints in life with FAITH IN GOD that sees beyond present bitter setbacks.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11