

"YET HOPE"

Week 6

KEY PASSAGES:

Lamentations 3:21 Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ruth 1:8-14 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. 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 and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people."

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? 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—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!" At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

Ruth 1:16-17 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. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried."

Matthew 16:24 "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Ruth 1:19-21 When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?" "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... the Lord has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me."

Ruth 1:22 So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning."

Ruth 2:1-3 Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor." Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter." So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz.

1 Peter 3:15 Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

Ruth 2:11-12 "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."

Ruth 4:15 "Your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth."

Hebrews 6:19 We have this hope that's an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

QUESTIONS:

1. If you could pick only one area of your life in which to be able to control the future, what would it be?
2. Traditionally speaking, what emotions come along with Mother's Day for you?
3. The story of Ruth starts with Naomi, a married woman who is forced to flee her country due to famine; then her husband dies, and eventually her two boys also die, leaving her displaced, alone, and with no one to carry the family name. She felt abandoned, bitter and lonely. While maybe not so severely, have you ever felt like Naomi?
4. The book of Ruth unfolds as a remarkable story of determined, Godly hope in action. Talk about parts of this story that are most notable or impactful to you.
5. Read Naomi's bitterness and resentment in Ruth 1:19-21 above.. then the contrast of verse 22. Share a time when your bitterness and hopelessness blinded you from seeing God's blessings and provision.
6. PERSONAL REFLECTION: How can you allow Romans 15:13 to come alive in tangible ways for you this week?