

Sermon Title: **“PLEASANT MOTHER’S USE BITTER CIRCUMSTANCES”**

Ruth 1:1-22

- The events that happen in both the Book of Ruth & the Book of Judges occur at the same time
 - The Book of Ruth shows the tiny glimmer of light in a very dark time
- This book opens with a famine hitting the land of Israel
 - God allows famines (& times of difficulty) to often times use them to draw people to a place of seeking God
- The Book of Ruth happens during a difficult time & a difficult situation
- “Bethlehem” = house of bread (which spoke to the fruitfulness of the land under normal circumstances)
- “Land of Moab” = a field or plain or the countryside of Moab
- “Sojourn” = reveals that this move was temporary (once this famine had passed, then they would come back home)
- “Elimelech” = my God is king
- “Naomi” = my delight or pleasant
- “Malon” = sick or sickness
- “Chilion” = pining or to languish; to waste away with longing
 - Both names could indicate that these sons were NOT anticipated to live very long (maybe they were sickly children?)
- Malon marries Ruth & Chilion marries Orpah (both women from Moab)
 - Both marriages end when Naomi’s sons die
- Upon hearing that Bethlehem was NO longer experiencing a famine, Naomi packs up to return home
- Naomi DIDN’T want these 2 young women to remain widows
 - Naomi released these women from ANY obligation that they might have felt toward her
 - Orpha although visibly sad, kisses Naomi & returns home
 - Ruth DOESN’T (Ruth instead clings to Naomi)
- Ruth must have noticed something different about Naomi
 - Ruth saw Naomi & thought if she’s a reflection of those people & her God ... I want that!