

Valley Bible Church - Sermon Study Questions

Study Aid for the Sermon from July 26, 2009 “A Bittersweet Providence” Ruth 1:15-22

Observing the text

Read Ruth 1. Have you ever felt like you were in Naomi’s shoes, blaming God? In the midst of hard times, what does it look like for you to go from blaming God to blessing God? What must change in your attitude and thinking? Read 2 Corinthians 4:17; Hebrews 12:15; Psalm 111:7; Job 1:21-22; 2:10.

In Ruth 1:14-18 we see Ruth’s total devotion and determination to love Naomi. What are the elements of Ruth’s confession of faith in the Lord that help us understand her level of devotion to Naomi?

Compare Philippians 2:3-5 and Mark 12:31 to Ruth’s demonstration of devotion to Naomi in Ruth 1:16-18 and highlight the similarities. What inhibits us from considering others as more significant than ourselves?

Applying the sermon

Do you know anyone who is hurting as Naomi was (Ruth 1:13, 20-21)? If so, how can you show commitment like Ruth’s toward that person? What will such a commitment cost you?

How can the kind of commitment Ruth had be a challenge to the way you are committed to those the Lord has put in your life (Ruth 1:14-18)?

Do you blame God for trials and hardship in your life? Is your attitude anything like Naomi’s attitude (Ruth 1:20-21)? If so, what biblical steps can you take to move you from blaming God in bitterness to blessing God in gratitude and complete trust in Him?

Providence means to see something beforehand. Read Ephesians 1:11. What comfort can you find from the providence of God? Since His plan is perfect in every way—exhaustive, including everything (Matthew 10:30), for our ultimate good (Romans 8:28), and is secret in that only He knows what is going to happen—how should this comfort us?