

Mother's Day Ruth's Noble Promise!

May 8, 2016 / Dan Solofra

¹ In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. . .

³ Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband. **Ruth 1:1,3-5, NIV**

Many times we expect to live in _____,
but we end up in Moab _____.

⁶ When Naomi heard in Moab that **the LORD had come to the aid of his people** by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. ⁷ With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

⁸ 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. ⁹ **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 ¹⁰ and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people." **Ruth 1:6-10, NIV**

Although filled with _____, it appears Naomi's home was also filled with _____.

¹¹ 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? ¹² 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— ¹³ 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!" ¹⁴ At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. **Ruth 1:11-14, NIV**

Ruth and Orpah had no _____ with Naomi.

¹⁵ "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her." ¹⁶ But 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.**" ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." ¹⁸ When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her. **Ruth 1:15-18, NIV**

Ruth's noble promise was to _____ to Naomi for life.

¹⁹ So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?" ²⁰ "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. ²¹ I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me."

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 1:19-22, NIV**

In dark times God offers _____. God's help often times comes through people like _____.

MEMORY VERSE

May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." **Ruth 1:17^b, NIV**

Bottom line: Jesus shows us unselfish steadfast love. We have opportunity to show this same noble love in our lives.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.