

Sermon Notes

"Running Away from God"

Ruth 1:1-6

August 4, 2024

4. The Mosaic Covenant explicitly prohibited intermarriage with certain other ethnicities (Deut. 7:1-3). Some interpreters point out that Moab was not included in this list, implying that there was no objection to Mahlon and Chilion marrying Moabitesses. But take note of the reason why intermarriage was prohibited (Deut. 7:4-5). Would this concern have applied to Moab? Though I believe they come much later in time, it is none-the-less instructive to see how both Ezra and Nehemiah interpreted this Mosaic prohibition (cited in Ezra 9:10-14, and applied in Ezra 9:1-2; applied in Nehemiah 13:23-27).
 - a. How do you think the original Jewish author and audience would have initially responded to Mahlon and Chilion marrying Moabitesses (positively, neutrally, or negatively)? Why?
 - b. As we continue to study the book of Ruth, pay attention to any hint of attitude toward Moabites.
 - c. Why would a circumspect Jew like Boaz feel free to marry Ruth? (Consider 1:16-17; 2:11-12; 3:11; 4:11.)
5. Sometimes when we are trying to run from God into compromise, we get stuck there, staying longer than intended. Can you relate to this? How so?
6. What news awakened Naomi to her need to return home (Ruth 1:6)? How has God use emptiness in your own life to draw you back to himself?

Let's Pray

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 08-04-2024

Digging Deeper:

Read Ruth 1:1-5. In this brief introduction, I believe the Jewish author primes his original audience to interpret this move to Moab as Elimelech's attempt to run away from God's chastisement. Use this study to consider why.

1. Summarize the time when the Judges governed (see Judges 2:7-19; 10:6-16; 21:25). How does this set the backdrop for this short story?
2. What does the mention of a famine in Bethlehem ("house of bread") signal? (See relevant texts in the Palestinian Covenant, Deut. 28:1-19, 23-24, 38-42; 30:1-10.)
3. From the following texts, how would Moab be viewed by a Jewish audience at the time of or immediately after David's rule (the likely time when this was authored)?

Genesis 19:30-38

Numbers 22:4-6 ff.

Numbers 25:1-3

Deuteronomy 23:3-6

Judges 3:12-30

1 Samuel 12:9

1 Samuel 14:47

2 Samuel 8:2,12

1 Kings 11:1, 7, 33

2 Kings 13:20