

New Life Christian Fellowship

Already widowed, Naomi lost her two sons. Distraught, she ordered her daughter's in law to return to their hometowns. But Ruth said: "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." Ruth 1:16.

This is a story of love, redemption and God's providence.

Naomi said: "...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." Do we doubt God, going back to back to old ways, when things get tough?

Uncertainties are like fog, blocking our view. We need to find clarity, waiting, read God's Word, getting good council. We sometimes need God to close and open doors.

When Naomi despaired, Ruth didn't say: "pull it together" but showed true love; taking the lowest of jobs, to keep them alive. They saw God shining through the fog. Doing well for others, God did well for Ruth.

Working the fields, Ruth met Boaz who said: "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."

Like God, Boaz's heart was large. Boaz married Ruth. They had a son, Obed, the father of Jesse; father of David, King of Israel.

From loss and bitterness comes a new life. Ruth's faithfulness was rewarded; her son Obed is part of lineage of Christ.

Kind acts can have far reaching consequences we can't always see. In life's hardships we like Ruth, can learn to trust God, and not on our own understandings. God will show the way. Remembering: "God works for the good of those who love him, who[i] have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8).

If you want to talk or would like us to pray for you call: 01834 812839/01834 831533.

New Life Christian Fellowship meet: Kilgetty Community Centre, 10.45am Sundays, all welcome.