

## Naomi, the Results of Backsliding

### ➤ Intro:

- Naomi was the woman who left Bethlehem and Went to Moab.
- Let us notice the results of her backsliding as recorded in Ruth 1.

### ➤ I. Backsliding was caused by adversity.

- ***"Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons." (Ruth 1:1)***
- There was a famine in the land. In Bible days, a famine was usually caused by the judgment of God against a people in sin.
- Naomi and her husband naturally were affected by this famine and went to Moab, away from the will of God, because of adversity.
- Oftentimes the test of a person's character is his ability to withstand adversity.

### ➤ II. Naomi left the will of God.

- The word "Bethlehem" means "house of bread."
- She went out to get bread, but she was living in the only place where she could get bread and that is in the will of God.

### ➤ III. Naomi got in the wrong crowd.

- Naomi went to Moab.
- The Moabites were a heathen people, descendants of Lot and his daughter when they committed the wicked sin of incest.
- Naomi was going with the wrong crowd.

### ➤ IV Naomi didn't intend to stay long.

- .Notice in verse 1 the word "sojourn."
- Do not think for a moment that you can go into sin briefly!
- Just a little fling may be all one needs to end up in a completely backslidden state.
- You should not only abstain from drunkenness, but abstain from one drink.
- The very appearance of sin should frighten us.

### ➤ V. Naomi and her husband were hypocritical.

- The name "Elimelech" means "My God is king."
- Though he bore this name, this was not the case.
- Naomi's name means "sweet" but she became bitter.
- Their lives and their names bore different testimonies.

- In other words, they were not what they were supposed to be.
- A backslider is a hypocrite.
- He bears the name of Christ because he is a Christian, but his life is not consistent with his name.
- **VI. Naomi took someone with her.**
  - Notice in verse 1 that her two sons went with her.
  - The only way a child can be in the will of God is to be cautioned there by the parents.
  - Hence, a parent is doubly obligated to be in God's will.
- **VII. Naomi's children suffered for her backsliding.**
  - How often is this the case of a backslider!
  - Her sons were named Mahlon and Chilion. "
  - Mahlon" means "sick."
  - "Chilion" means "complaining" and "melancholy."
  - What a shame that children have to pay for the sins of their parents!
- **VIII. Though she went for a sojourn, she stayed.**
  - ***"And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there." (Ruth 1:2)***
  - Notice the words, "continued there," at the close of verse 2.
  - Notice the words; "and they dwelled there about ten years," at the close of verse 4.
  - Once again we are reminded that we cannot play or flirt with sin.
- **IX. Naomi's husband died.**
  - ***"And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons." (Ruth 1:3)***
  - Naomi keeps paying for her backslidden condition.
  - Many people lose loved ones or their own lives because of backsliding.
- **X. Her sons got with the wrong crowd.**
  - ***"And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years." (Ruth 1:4)***
  - They married Moabitish women.
  - If you live in Moab, the only choices you have are people from Moab.
  - A person who spends his life with God's people will likely marry one of God's people.

- We should see to it that our children have the best people to associate with as possible.
- **XI. Naomi came back to God's will to late.**
  - *"Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread." (Ruth 1:6)*
  - Notice the words, "Then she arose."
  - She is not too late for forgiveness, and she is not too late to be of some value to God; but she is too late for God's best, too late for God's perfect will, too late to have a happy home, too late to have Christian daughters-in-law, too late to have the care of her sons, and too late for what might have been.
- **XII. Naomi lost her testimony.**
  - *"And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me. . . . And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?" (Ruth 1:8, 11)*
  - Note that even though her daughters-in-law wanted to return with her, she insisted that they stay in Moab.
  - She had a good chance to be a soul winner, but she had no concern for the unsaved.
  - A backslider is certainly unproductive in the Lord's work.
- **XIII. Naomi was barely recognized when she got back to God's will.**
  - *"So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?" (Ruth 1:19)*
  - Notice the words, "Is this Naomi?"
  - Sin had left its effect on her face and her body.
  - People could hardly recognize this as the same person.
  - Sin shows on your face, in your health and in your life.
- **XIV. Sin caused Naomi to become bitter.**
  - *"And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me." (Ruth 1:20)*
  - "Mara" is now her new name.
  - "Mara" means "bitter."
  - The drink of sin may taste good, but the dregs in the bottom of the glass are bitter ones.
- **XV. Sin did not give Naomi what she expected.**

- ***"I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?" (Ruth 1:21)***
- She thought she was empty and went out to get full.
- Now she finds out too late that she had been full and came back empty.
- **XVI. She was, however, forgiven.**
  - These may be those who have already tasted the dregs of sin and backsliding.
  - They have paid the price and know its bitter end.
  - In spite of the fact that this person cannot be restored to his normal usefulness, he can be forgiven and made useful to an extent.
  - Such was the case with Naomi.