

Silver Creek Fellowship NOTES

December 1

ADVENT

CHRISTMAS HOPE: FINDING LIGHT IN DARKNESS

Ruth 1:1-2 (NLT) ¹ "In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him. ² The man's name was Elimelech, and his wife was Naomi. Their two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. And when they reached Moab, they settled there."

Ruth 1:8-15 (NLT) ⁸ "But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, 'Go back to your mothers' homes. And may the LORD reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me. ⁹ May the LORD bless you with the security of another marriage.' Then she kissed them good-bye, and they all broke down and wept. ¹⁰ 'No,' they said. 'We want to go with you to your people.' ¹¹ But Naomi replied, 'Why should you go on with me? Can I still give birth to other sons who could grow up to be your husbands?' ¹² No, my daughters, return to your parents' homes, for I am too old to marry again. And even if it were possible, and I were to get married tonight and bear sons, then what? ¹³ Would you wait for them to grow up and refuse to marry someone else? No, of course not, my daughters! Things are far more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD himself has raised his fist against me.' ¹⁴ And again they wept together, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. But Ruth clung tightly to Naomi. ¹⁵ 'Look,' Naomi said to her, 'your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. You should do the same.'"

Ruth 1:16-18 (NLT) ¹⁶ "But Ruth replied, 'Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. ¹⁷ Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!' ¹⁸ When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more."

Ruth 1:20-21 (NLT) "'Don't call me Naomi,' she responded. 'Instead, call me Mara for the Almighty has made life very bitter for me. ²¹ I went away full, but the Lord has brought me home empty. Why call me Naomi when the Lord has caused me to suffer and the Almighty has sent such tragedy upon me?'"

Ruth 2:1-3 (NLT) "Now there was a wealthy and influential man in Bethlehem named Boaz, who was a relative of Naomi's husband, Elimelech. ² One day Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, 'Let me go out into the harvest fields to pick up the stalks of grain left behind by anyone who is kind enough to let me do it.' Naomi replied, 'All right, my daughter, go ahead.' ³ So Ruth went out to gather grain behind the harvesters. And as it happened, she found herself working in a field that belonged to Boaz, the relative of her father-in-law, Elimelech."

Ruth 3:3-4 (NLT) ³ "Now do as I tell you—take a bath and put on perfume and dress in your nicest clothes. Then go to the threshing floor, but don't let Boaz see you until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴ Be sure to notice where he lies down; then go and uncover his feet and lie down there. He will tell you what to do.'"

Ruth 3:8-12 (NLT) ⁸ "Around midnight Boaz suddenly woke up and turned over. He was surprised to find a woman lying at his feet! ⁹ 'Who are you?' he asked. 'I am your servant Ruth,'

she replied. 'Spread the corner of your covering over me, for you are my family redeemer.'¹⁰ 'The Lord bless you, my daughter!' Boaz exclaimed. 'You are showing even more family loyalty now than you did before, for you have not gone after a younger man, whether rich or poor.'¹¹ Now don't worry about a thing, my daughter. I will do what is necessary, for everyone in town knows you are a virtuous woman.'

Ruth 3:13 (NLT) "So Boaz took Ruth into his home, and she became his wife. When he slept with her, the LORD enabled her to become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son."

Ruth 4:17 "The neighbor women said, 'Now at last Naomi has a son again!' And they named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David."

Psalms 130 (NIV) A song of ascents. ¹ "Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord, ² Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. ³ If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? ⁴ But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you. ⁵ I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. ⁶ I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning. ⁷ Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. ⁸ He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins."

John 1:5 (NIV) "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Romans 15:4 (NIV) "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."

Hebrews 6:19a (NIV) "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."

1 Peter 1:3 (NIV) "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"

James 2:26 (NIV) "As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead."

Lamentations 3:16-26 (NIV) ¹⁶ He has broken my teeth with gravel; he has trampled me in the dust. ¹⁷ I have been deprived of peace; I have forgotten what prosperity is. ¹⁸ So I say, 'My splendor is gone and all that I had hoped from the Lord.' ¹⁹ I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. ²⁰ I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. ²¹ Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: ²² Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴ I say to myself, 'The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.'²⁵ The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; ²⁶ it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord."

Psalms 42:5 (NIV) "Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God."

Romans 15:13 (NLT) "I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit."